







EX LIBRIS  
CARL W. SCHAEFER









**LINCOLN SERIES**

**VOLUME II**

---

**THE DIARY OF  
ORVILLE HICKMAN BROWNING**

**VOLUME I, 1850-1864**





ILLINOIS  
STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

---

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OTTO LEOPOLD SCHMIDT, *President*  
CHARLES HENRY RAMMELKAMP, *Vice President*  
LAURENCE MARCELLUS LARSON, *Secretary*

---

JESSIE PALMER WEBER, *Librarian\**  
THEODORE CALVIN PEASE, *Editor*

---

ADVISORY COMMISSION

EVARTS BOUTELL GREENE  
WILLIAM EDWARD DODD  
JAMES ALTON JAMES  
ANDREW CUNNINGHAM McLAUGHLIN  
EDWARD CARLETON PAGE  
THEODORE CALVIN PEASE  
CHARLES HENRY RAMMELKAMP

---

\*Died May 30, 1926.





COLLECTIONS  
OF THE  
ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY

---

EDITED BY  
THEODORE CALVIN PEASE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

---

*VOLUME XX*



COLLECTIONS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY  
VOLUME XX

---

LINCOLN SERIES, VOLUME II

THE DIARY OF  
ORVILLE HICKMAN  
BROWNING

VOLUME I, 1850-1864

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY  
THEODORE CALVIN PEASE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

AND

JAMES G. RANDALL  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

---

PUBLISHED BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE  
ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

LIBRARY  
1925  
LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY  
Harrogate, Tennessee 37752

F536  
I25  
v. 20

COPYRIGHT, 1927

BY

THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

PRESS OF  
THE BLAKELY PRINTING COMPANY  
CHICAGO



## PREFACE

Orville Hickman Browning, Whig politician in Illinois, lawyer, senator, cabinet member, friend of Lincoln, may have kept a diary for his whole adult life; at any rate we are fortunate in possessing diaries of his composition for the years 1850, 1852-1879, 1880-1881. In 1850 he was forty-three years old; in 1881, at the end of the record he has left us, he was within a few weeks of his death. The diaries that we have were fortunately preserved in the hands of his sister's child, Mrs. Eliza Price Miller, *née* Eliza O'Bannon. In 1921, the diaries and a few accompanying papers were purchased of her by the Illinois State Historical Library. In selling the diaries Mrs. Miller made the stipulation that no passage reflecting on Mrs. Lincoln should ever be published; this has resulted in the exclusion of two or three passages of unimportant gossip. The first volume of this publication covering the years 1850-1864 stands as the second volume of the Lincoln series of the Illinois Historical Collections; the second and concluding volume covering the years 1865-1881 will be the third volume in the series. The index to both volumes of the diary will appear in the second.

The editing of the volume in question has fallen to Professor J. G. Randall of the University of Illinois and to myself. Professor Randall wrote a part of the footnotes; I have written another part of them and the introduction; for the writing of a considerable body of the notes and the rewriting and rechecking of many others we have to thank my assistant editor, Miss Marguerite Jenison.

Many persons have aided us in our task. Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, librarian of the Illinois State Historical Library, whose untimely death has been not only a shock to her friends, but an immeasurable loss to the organized work in Illinois history that has developed around her, was always ready with counsel; her

assistant, Miss Georgia L. Osborne, has helped also in many ways dating from the original purchase of the diary. Mr. E. W. Brown and Mr. Frank Heintz, of Jacksonville, have also been ready to assist whenever called on. For letters of and pertaining to the Brownings we have to thank Miss Mary B. O'Bannon, of Berkeley, California, Mrs. J. W. Foutch and Mr. W. B. Robertson, of Springfield—both the latter children of another of Browning's sisters. Mrs. Foutch and Mr. Robertson also supplied interesting and valuable daguerreotypes of the Browning family.

To secure a text as accurate as possible we have undertaken to reproduce all places in which deletions, erasures, etc., occur in the original; also all places where a change of handwriting suggests anything as to the precise date of the entry. The significant signs that indicate these changes will be found on another page. The work of collation of the manuscript and of seeing the diary through the press has been therefore especially heavy. Great credit is due to the assistant editors who have worked on it, Miss Nellie C. Armstrong, Miss Ruth Williams and Miss Marguerite Jenison. They have been assisted in their tasks by Miss Marvel Jones, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Zimmerman, Miss Ameda Ruth King, Miss Ernestine Jenison, and Miss Josephine Boner.

THEODORE CALVIN PEASE

Urbana, Illinois, June 20, 1926

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| List of Signs and Devices..... | vii |
| Introduction.....              | xi  |
| 1850.....                      | 1   |
| 1852.....                      | 33  |
| 1853.....                      | 89  |
| 1854.....                      | 123 |
| 1855.....                      | 166 |
| 1856.....                      | 220 |
| 1857.....                      | 270 |
| 1858.....                      | 311 |
| 1859.....                      | 346 |
| 1860.....                      | 389 |
| 1861.....                      | 446 |
| 1862.....                      | 521 |
| 1863.....                      | 608 |
| 1864.....                      | 653 |



## LIST OF SIGNS AND DEVICES

---

- \* Indicates change in character of handwriting in original diary.
- † — † Marks words which, judged by the handwriting, were added after the original entry was made.
- Monday  
~~Sunday~~ Indicates original word was blotted and correction written over it.
- Monday  
~~Sunday~~ Indicates original word was crossed out and correction written above it.
- Carets and inserted words and phrases are reproduced as they appear in the original diary.





# ORVILLE HICKMAN BROWNING

SPECIAL INTRODUCTION

BY

THEODORE CALVIN PEASE



## INTRODUCTION

The life of pioneer America was unstable as a wave. Capriciously it lifted men and families to the height of prosperity and honor and then dashed them down to the depths. It took Orville Hickman Browning of Kentucky, an ambitious young lawyer trying his fortune at Quincy, in Illinois, and made him a senator of the United States, the adviser of Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, and a cabinet minister. It just withheld from him a place among the highest in American history, because in preaching conciliation of the South in the Civil War and the reconstruction period he took the losing side. It retired him with honor and respect from his high position, gave him fortune, almost great wealth; and then a week before his death held up before him the certainty that to those he loved most dearly he left only poverty and undeserved shame. The diary of the man has its high importance as a source for the history of the nation. It has no less importance as a text for the vicissitudes of the frontier period of American history.

No Greek philosopher could have imagined a lot in life offering greater opportunity and incentive to success than that which fell to the young Browning. He was born three years and two days earlier than Abraham Lincoln to a gentle Kentucky family related by blood and marriage to clan after clan of the Kentuckians who helped to form the newer west. His parents had means enough to secure for him at Augusta College in Kentucky the greater part of the college education which fell to the lot of but few men of the time. Then a little before his graduation financial difficulties overtook his father and the young man, well equipped for life, was thrown into it on his own resources. Studying law in Kentucky, he came to Illinois in 1831, landing almost penniless at Quincy, to seek his fortune in the new west.

The location was a good one for a young lawyer of ability. Quincy was the center of the Military Tract—the area lying between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers—and while still a wild frontier with few attorneys, the Tract offered lucrative prospects. The greater part of the land in it had been given as bounties to soldiers of the War of 1812. Most of the soldiers had sold out to eastern speculators; some had already through ignorance allowed their lands to be sold for taxes; and intricate problems of tax sales and priorities of title immediately confronted the courts. Eastern speculators operating through land agents on the ground had money to spend for legal services.

Two of the younger lawyers speedily stood out in this practice: Archibald Williams, older than Browning, a good reasoner rather than a brilliant orator, eccentric in manner and dress, of a striking and emaciated figure, and Orville H. Browning, who in everything but ability was his complete contrast. Of young Browning we have no pen portrait, but we know he developed into a tall, robust, powerful man of impressive appearance and overwhelming dignity set off by a grave courtliness of manner; a suave, florid orator, who continually turned from his land law to defenses of criminals, that by their eloquence and pathos moved jury and audience to tears.

This is the first of the keys to Browning's character: the Kentucky cavalier regarded himself as a thorough knight errant champion of the oppressed. He laid lance in rest for men accused of robbery or murder; at Naperville in 1860 he defended Mrs. Burch against an attempt of her husband to divorce her unjustly, doubtless measuring himself with Lord Brougham in his defense of Queen Caroline. Even hapless negroes sought to be carried off into bondage found their champion in the Kentuckian who belonged to the slaveholding class but did not like slavery.

The Kentucky cavalier was also a finished squire of dames. Even in the end of his life, ladies who have spoken with him recall with admiration the old school politeness that first reveals to the half grown girl the fact that she is entitled to the courtesy of being addressed as "Miss." His diary on page after page

presents a man at home in ladies' drawing rooms and welcome there, a man who makes the flowers he loved and grew himself the symbols of his admiration and esteem of "the sex."

He was, however, a devoted and ardent husband. On February 25, 1836, he married Eliza Caldwell, of another good Kentucky family, and brought her to Quincy to live. Even to the end in notices of the wedding anniversary, his diary bears testimony to the fact that after thirty or forty years of wedded life the husband was still the ardent lover. Mrs. Browning was a woman scarcely less striking than her husband. Those who knew her as children bear testimony to a tall portly lady whose displeasure would have been awful had it not been mitigated by a native kindness of heart. Even as a young woman she was probably not beautiful, a fact she recognized herself; for one of her letters two years after her marriage tells her distress because he carries her miniature and exhibits it with pride to strangers with their tongues in their cheeks at the doting husband who thinks all men must share his opinion of her loveliness.

The measure of Mrs. Browning's mentality was a generous one. Her force of mind made her a respected adviser of men who ordinarily despised the brains of women. Very interesting is her friendship with Abraham Lincoln. One of the best known of Lincoln's letters is one in which the young man of twenty-nine, decisively rejected by Miss Mary Owens, reveals his pique and chagrin in a series of satirical comments on her personal shortcomings; and even more reveals a need of sympathy. The noble lord who wrote the life of Lincoln naturally assumed the letter was written to a sedate matron. It was written to the two years' bride who was distressed that her husband showed her picture everywhere! Long years afterward Mrs. Lincoln bore her testimony to Mrs. Browning's influence on Abraham Lincoln when she told Browning that the President was anxious to have him and Mrs. Browning near him at Washington. One may speculate on how far the country's history would have been different had the able, firm, temperate-minded Eliza Caldwell replaced the tempestuous Mary Todd as the wife of Lincoln.



Browning and Lincoln themselves were soon brought into close touch with each other as fellow members of the state legislature and of the Whig party. Men have searched in vain for the reason why Abraham Lincoln as a young politician was found in the Whig party. There need be no such difficulty in the case of Browning. The sentimental Kentucky gentleman naturally took the side on which were found gentility, wealth, and sentiment. He sought his leader, as he naturally might, in the eloquent Henry Clay, the pleader for the Union, rather than in the flaming Andrew Jackson, the vindicator of the democracy of the nation.

In 1836 Browning was elected senator from Adams County for a four-year term. These years covered a momentous era in the state's legislative history. The first session, 1836-1837, saw the passage of the measure by which the state undertook on its credit the construction of a great system of canals, roads, and railroads, looking to dividends on paper stock in state-created banks to help finance the project. The session, too, saw the location of the state capitol at Springfield, thanks to the political skill of Lincoln and the other members of the Sangamon County delegation in trading votes for the "internal improvement scheme." Browning warmly favored the location of the state capitol at Springfield and voted for increasing the capital stock of the state banks, but he strongly opposed the internal improvement measure in spite of the fact that Quincy was to be an important terminus. His constituents framed instructions to him to vote for the measure and proposed to tar and feather him when he refused to obey.<sup>1</sup>

By the beginning of the second regular session in which Browning sat, the imminent collapse of the scheme had fully justified his opposition to it. He voted for the revenue law, designed to increase taxation in the vain hope of carrying on the system, and finally was active in procuring the suspension of the whole affair. He declined to stand for reelection to the Senate in 1840, and in 1842 was elected to the lower house at the top of the poll for the county. Here he actively participated

<sup>1</sup>*Quincy Whig*, May 9, July 25, 1840, October 14, 1850.

in the measures that extricated the state from its difficulty, although like most Whigs he looked to a distribution among the states of surplus federal revenue as the best chance of escaping from the internal improvement debt.

In 1843 his earlier political career approached its critical point. The congressional reapportionment had given Illinois seven seats in Congress instead of three; and the younger and more ambitious men in both parties entered the race for the new prizes. Browning offered for the Quincy district, his opponent being Stephen A. Douglas. For Douglas, too, the race was a critical one. He had risen from office to office in Illinois with but one defeat. In 1838 he had been beaten by a few dozen votes in a canvass with John T. Stuart for the seat in Congress for the northern district, then giving three-fifths of the vote of the state. He now resigned a judgeship to run against Browning in a district to which Greene and Macoupin counties had been added by the Democratic legislature with the express intention of beating Browning if possible.<sup>1</sup> Douglas and Browning stumped the district so strenuously that both broke down in health. Douglas was successful by five hundred votes, going on to the leadership of the Illinois delegation, to the senatorship, and finally to be presidential candidate of his party. Browning dropped back on the local stage of action. Until 1850 there is evidence of little more than casual political activity on his part.

By 1850 Browning had reached the age of 44, the prime of life. He had alternated with his political activities a diligent attention to his practice. Since 1837 he had been in partnership with Bushnell and the firm had developed a more than local reputation. The series of lawyers of fame who "read law" in the office was beginning to appear in such men as R. S. Blackwell. With increased financial gains came more expansive systems of living. Browning and his bride had been happy in the little log cabin humorously described by Milton Browning, a younger brother, as "a little house ten feet square, two stories high, and having two stove pipes through the roof about four

<sup>1</sup>*Quincy Whig*, November 12, 1850. The charge is borne out by the fact that the district was from 1,800 to 7,000 votes larger than any of the others. The two counties named turned the scale against Browning.

inches apart.”<sup>1</sup> It was first replaced by a more commodious house, still built of logs, at Eighth and Hampshire streets in Quincy. Here the Brownings were able to entertain visiting Kentucky relatives, preachers, celebrities and friends like Lincoln more generously than hitherto. It had become evident that they could not hope for children; a still-born boy in 1843 had almost caused the death of Mrs. Browning.<sup>2</sup> The father’s grief over the loss was touching. Without hope of children of their own they took in child after child to be given shelter and nurture. One of them, a certain William Shipley, who was killed at the outbreak of the Civil War, Browning mourned for as many would have mourned for a son. In 1853 they took into their home a motherless child, Emma Lord, whom, without a formal adoption, they reared as their own daughter.

Around them Quincy was expanding from a village of log huts to a thriving town. The Brownings, too, were advancing to a more and more secure position of leadership in its social and civic enterprises. With families of kinsmen like the Asburys and New England settlers like the Bushnells, the Bulls, and others, the Brownings maintained the closest intimacy. There were visits to Kentucky relatives, to Browning’s brother, Marcus, to his mother, to his married sisters, Mrs. O’Bannon and Mrs. Robertson, that recalled to him the old gracious life of the Kentucky upper classes.

Yet clearly as his diary shows Browning’s appreciation of the charm of the life of the Kentucky kinsfolk, it shows also his dislike of the slavery on which it was based. Of course he was not an abolitionist. In the state Senate in 1837 he had drawn a report condemning abolitionism in graceful periods as having forestalled the hopes of the gradual voluntary emancipation and the colonization of ex-slaves in Africa to speed civilization among their benighted brethren; he had also voted without question for the more savage House resolutions against which Lincoln and Stone had protested. Yet in practice he was the

<sup>1</sup>Letter, April 17, 1838, in possession of Mrs. J. W. Foutch, Springfield, Illinois. Copy in Illinois Historical Survey, University of Illinois.

<sup>2</sup>Letter, April 30, 1843, in possession of Mrs. J. W. Foutch, Springfield, Illinois. Copy in Illinois Historical Survey, University of Illinois.

champion of the negro slave in Illinois courts. His chivalry revolted at the sale of men, even more at the brutal frankness which exploited the graces of mulatto women in seeking possible purchasers. The reaction of this opinion on his political course is seen in his unsuccessful races for Congress in 1850 and 1852 against William A. Richardson. He had openly opposed the Fugitive Slave Law as a violation of constitutional rights, and insisted on the right of Congress to exclude slavery from the territories. He was only following out his previous contests when on March 1, 1854, he leaped into the arena to do battle against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. At a meeting in Quincy and at various places about the circuit he argued the iniquity of the bill. Naturally he went along with the band of Whigs who by May, 1856, had taken over the Republican party and organized it on conservative lines. In the Republican conventions of 1856 and 1858 Browning himself served as the draftsman of the platforms.

Here Browning's attitude toward Lincoln calls for comment. Of their earlier relations we know comparatively little, but nothing to contradict the natural supposition that the handsome, stately, suave college man and finished orator regarded himself as superior to the homely, self-educated, rough and ready stump-speaker. One judges that Lincoln must have acquiesced in Browning's implied claim of superiority, though not without a keener insight into his friend than Browning imagined. At all events the entries in the diary, 1854-1860, deal with Lincoln so slightly as to suggest that Browning took refuge in its pages to ignore a constantly waxing political rival.

In 1854 provokingly enough the pages that covered the senatorial election are missing. We have only the comment on the effort of one or two friends in behalf of Browning that he thinks no Whig can be elected. In the entries for 1858 he fails to mention the "house divided against itself" speech. He heard the famous lost speech of 1856; his comment is "I was called out and made two speeches in the afternoon Convention also addressed by Lovejoy, Lincoln, Cook & others." He can record political conversations with Justice McLean in Chicago and barely note in the same days that he attended the theatre with



Lincoln. There was a suspicion abroad in 1859 that Browning had not been too forward for Lincoln in the campaign of 1858.

One wonders what Browning's feelings were in 1859 and early in 1860 when newspaper gossip began to forecast a cabinet position for Lincoln in case of a Republican victory in 1860, and finally the vice presidency and even the presidency. Did jealousy of a rival lead him in the fall of 1859 to press enthusiastically the claims of Edward Bates of Missouri to the Republican nomination? Browning could have assigned himself most excellent reasons. The election of 1858 had demonstrated Lincoln's inability to hold the old Whig elements in line. Why not import a Whig candidate who would be sure to do it? Browning sought interviews with Bates and pressed Bates's claims to the nomination on his friends. He discussed the matter with Lincoln, who humbly said it was quite possible he would come to think as Browning did and withdraw from the race. The story is told that Lincoln decided that Browning had better be kept on the delegation to the Chicago convention because he could be watched there.<sup>1</sup> It is possible—but so prominent a Republican could hardly have been left off. At the convention Browning used his oratory loyally enough in behalf of Lincoln in other state delegations; but he confided to his diary his belief that Bates would have been nominated if the balloting had been prolonged. One flash of malicious pleasure when Republican leaders begged him to get Bates to enter the campaign to turn the old Whig element to Lincoln, and he plunged zealously into the struggle to elevate his old associate to the place of first citizen of the nation.

In the fifties Browning himself had advanced toward national prominence. At Quincy, at Chicago he had met and talked with, even entertained visiting celebrities. In 1855 his championship of tax titles took him to Washington to argue cases before the Supreme Court. He was admitted to the bar of the court, made his first argument, received the congratulations of lawyers of national prominence, and enlarged and improved his acquaintance among national figures. In November and December of 1860

<sup>1</sup>Ida M. Tarbell, *In the Footsteps of the Lincolns*, 391.

he defended Mrs. Burch against her husband's attempt to trump up a divorce case against her. The fact that she was a niece of Erastus Corning drew the attention of New York papers, made the case news for the nation and made the lawyer whose eloquence secured the triumph of Mrs. Burch for the time being a figure of national interest.

His pleasure in his success absorbed Browning's attention in the beginnings of secession. Even then, like most Republicans, he thought patronage and party position were more important things than threats of secession. The chance that N. B. Judd of Illinois might be a member of Lincoln's cabinet seemed more fraught with evil than the secession of the lower south. When Browning sought an interview with Lincoln, however, he was glad to find his old friend bearing his new honors meekly and more resolved than Browning had expected to maintain the Union. He read, criticized, and altered Lincoln's inaugural address, accompanying him at his urgent request as far as Indianapolis on the way to Washington.

Chance had decreed that Browning should follow him very speedily. Stephen A. Douglas came to Illinois on his mission of raising the northern Democrats for the Union, negotiated with Browning a party truce for Illinois, and died June 3, 1861. Governor Richard Yates proposed to appoint a Democratic senator in his place, but Democratic journals repelled the offer as an attempt at party fusion. Therefore, until the legislature could elect a senator to fill the vacancy, Yates appointed Browning United States senator to fill the unexpired term. Fate had made him the residuary legatee of his conqueror of 1843.

Browning's senatorial career in Washington, July 4, 1861, to January 30, 1863, is of supreme interest for two reasons. In the first place Lincoln from the beginning made his old friend a close confidant and adviser. The president's office and the president's secrets opened to Browning when they opened to no other. When Willie Lincoln sickened and died the Lincolns would hardly let the Brownings away from the White House. To the man who had himself lost a son Lincoln showed the pitiful little memoranda of great events that Willie had set himself to



note down. Lincoln's doubts and hesitations about men and events and policies, his fears, his sorrows, he confided to Browning, and Browning to his diary. Till the political course of the two men diverged in the summer of 1862 Browning was almost Lincoln's personal representative in the Senate.

The main interest of Browning's career in Washington must, of course, be the long memoranda of his conversations with Lincoln. But to the historian of the Civil War interest attaches to it also because Browning became more or less the consistent spokesman of a course of policy toward the South, tried and then abandoned: making war on rebels and not on slavery, and fighting by force of arms rather than by proclamations or acts of Congress. Browning, it must be remembered, was a Kentuckian by birth and instinct. He was a lover of the Union and believed that secession was nothing but rebellion and must be mercilessly crushed by force of arms. At the same time he had constantly before him, as did Lincoln himself down to July, 1862, the thousands upon thousands of loyal men in the border states hating secession and fighting it like himself, but at the same time holding slaves and sure to be outraged and insulted if the war for the Union were turned to a war to abolish slavery. From the beginning to the end of the war Browning thought with this class. He approved any and every blow against armed secession; he approved even the confiscation of slaves who were a potential military reserve of the Confederate army when it was done by order of a general in the field like Frémont; he protested when Frémont's proclamation was revoked and was only reconciled to Frémont's removal when convinced of the financial irregularities he had tolerated. But when radicals like Trumbull proposed making war by legislation such as the confiscation acts, he drew back. Here was not, he thought, a blow with the sword at rebellion; rather it was the rearing of a legislative engine to raze the ancient foundations of federal government. In the session of 1861-1862 he fought first the interference of Congress with the direction of the war by the President and then its revolutionary legislation.

In assailing Trumbull and Sumner on the confiscation act Browning took his political life in his hand. Lincoln so far

agreed with him as to sign the second confiscation act only when assured it would work no attainder of blood; but in the summer of 1862 foreign opinion, the opinion of the Northwest, belief that after all the Confederates made the war for slavery and slavery must be crushed to break the rebellion, impelled Lincoln away from the "border state policy" to that of the Emancipation Proclamation. Browning at the end of the session had gone home to Illinois, already badgered by the radical press for his course, provoked even to the point of running opposition candidates to such out-and-out antislavery congressmen as Owen Lovejoy. Invited to address a Union meeting at Quincy, November 1, he had made a nondescript speech deprecating politics and urging his hearers to vote the best ticket without telling them what it was.<sup>1</sup> The first emancipation proclamation had filled him with distress. He feared that the border states, the Democrats, and a great share of the army were lost. Whether from disgust at radicalism or because of the split in the Republican ranks that he himself had fostered, the Democrats elected a legislature which chose William A. Richardson to succeed him in the Senate. He returned to Washington in bad humor with the President. Burnside's defeat at Fredericksburg and the intrigues of Salmon P. Chase caused the radical senators to caucus and demand Seward's withdrawal from the cabinet. Lincoln was almost on the point of despair and Browning became almost patronizing as he alternately lectured his old friend on the folly of his surrender to radicalism on the emancipation proclamation and encouraged him to keep up hope. That political sagacity which Browning could not appreciate ultimately showed Lincoln the way through the crisis. Browning made one last effort to persuade him not to issue the definitive emancipation proclamation of January 1, 1863, confided to his diary his certainty of impending disaster, presented Richardson's credentials to the Senate, and shook the dust of Washington from his feet, mourning for Lincoln as Samuel mourned for Saul.

Within the year, however, he had found his way back in a private capacity to undertake two of the least creditable years'

<sup>1</sup>*Quincy Whig*, November 1, 10, 1862.

work of his life. As a senator in Washington he had become intimate with Thomas Ewing, "the last of the great Senators who shed so much luster upon our Country in the first half of the present century," he remarked on hearing later of Ewing's death. Not merely did he record with delight Ewing's reminiscences of Jackson's time. In the fall of 1863 Ewing came up to St. Louis and the two men with ex-Senator Cowan of Pennsylvania and a certain Britton Hill formed a law partnership for practice in Washington.

The partnership in question undertook some purely legal cases before the United States Supreme Court; but unfortunately it did other things as well. His career as a senator had accustomed Browning to a senator's regular beat among the departments, obtaining an office for this constituent, a contract for that, a special favor for the other. Now Browning and his new firm devoted themselves to extricating contractors from difficulty, getting fraudulent quartermasters out of the jails in which Stanton had cast them, trying to save from the gallows a rebel spy of good family, doing other things in which personal influence and "knowing the ropes" were at least as important as a deep knowledge of the law. It is possible that Browning may not fully have understood what he was doing. Conscious of his industry and legal ability he may have shut his eyes to the fact that the men who retained him retained not so much the skillful lawyer as the friend to whom Lincoln's office door still swung open when it remained closed to other men. The conversations with Lincoln were resumed. Gradually they turned once more to the political, but a sordid tone also entered into them. Even Lincoln was willing to try to save the cotton of a rebel sister-in-law and to use Browning as the agency for doing it.

Browning's perceptions were soon blunted enough to seek to make a profit out of the blood of the men who were fighting for the Union. James W. Singleton was an old Whig party associate of Lincoln and Browning who had parted from them in 1854, going ultimately to the Democrats. He had been active for some time as a self-constituted negotiator with the Confederacy. About the beginning of 1865 he proposed to Browning to secure permission from the President for buying southern produce with

greenbacks, passing it through the Union lines and selling in the North at a huge profit, an operation as Browning smugly noted "which will make us rich if we can only get it out." He salved his conscience with the fact that Lincoln believed that sending greenbacks into the Confederacy would tend to bring the rebel states back into the Union. He failed to see that to do so was to allow the Confederates to get their bulky raw materials out in exchange for credits which would enable them to purchase the valuable drugs, supplies, etc., of so little bulk that smuggling them in was a slight affair. One cannot resist a feeling of satisfaction at finding the Confederacy collapsed too soon for Singleton and Browning to make their millions. Their produce was burned in Richmond and Wilmington.

With the assassination of Lincoln—which Browning records in detail without seeming to understand that one of the great men of all time had passed from his touch—a new era in Browning's career begins. His disgust with the radicals and their scheme of reconstruction led him into the following and finally into the cabinet of Andrew Johnson in an attempt to win the country to a scheme of reconstruction that would restore the Union to what it was and not to what in revenge on the southern states the radicals would like to make it. It is singularly characteristic of Browning that he was always completely dominated in his estimate of men by their passing relation to himself and his ideas. March 4, 1865, he had declared Johnson's inaugural "disgusted all decent people who heard him." Within a year he regarded him as the savior of the Union. For a time he continued his business of assisting men in trouble as rebels or as charged with complicity in Lincoln's murder. On January 2, 1866, he had an interview with Johnson, and promised his support to Johnson's policy of restoring the southern states to statehood and southern men to citizenship. By April the two men were in political alliance. May 23, 1866, Browning was installed as adviser on the Illinois patronage. June 11 he was present at a conference with Johnson in which Johnson dedicated \$20,000 of his own money, the federal patronage and the succession to the presidency to build up a party to rescue the nation from radicalism. The call to the Philadelphia convention fol-



lowed within a few days, signed by Browning among others. The organization of a party around the president had taken place.

For years Browning had been intermittently thought of for secretary of the interior. Mrs. Browning was possibly incorrect in thinking he could have had the post in 1850, but at the end of 1862 Lincoln had seriously considered Browning for it. Leonard Swett was later authority for the statement that Browning then aspired to the Supreme Court justiceship won by David Davis,<sup>1</sup> but the diary offers no evidence of it and Swett's memory may have been at fault. However, by April 24, 1866, Browning was being talked of pretty generally. On July 26, Johnson formally tendered him the Interior Department. It was decided that he should be appointed to take office September 1, 1866. The senate had not yet reached the point of rejecting Johnson's appointees when otherwise eligible, and he was duly confirmed.

During the thirty-one months he held the office the chief questions of routine that presented themselves to Browning for consideration appear to have been the Indians and the railroads. In respect to the Indians his problem was to keep them peaceable, managing them through agents of the department, and fending off interference in their management by army authorities. Several times he had open clashes in cabinet with the representatives of the War Department as to the limitation of their respective spheres of control over the Indians. The diary is full of accounts of the reception of Indian delegations and of the exchange of speeches. As to railroads his duties involved the approval of the completed sections of the Pacific railways and the issue of the bonds and land warrants to which they were entitled.

More important than routine administration both to Browning and the historian alike are the passages of the diary that cover the rival reconstruction policies of the President and Congress. Browning recorded more or less fully the discussions in every cabinet meeting he attended and his main interest lay in the questions that turned personally on Stanton and politically

<sup>1</sup>William H. Herndon and J. W. Weik, *Herndon's Lincoln*, 3: 502-505.

on reconstruction problems. If Browning was ever overawed by any one he was overawed by the personality of the great war secretary. His estimates of the man during the eight years he knew him veer like the weathercock.

On questions of policy Browning's mind did not change; and on his theories as to reconstruction he stood fast. From the beginning he had foreseen the lengths to which the hostility of President and Congress might go. As early as November 15, 1866, he suggested the possibility that the President might be impeached only to be laughed at for his fears by the rest of the cabinet. The contests of the winter and the overridden vetoes increased his misgivings, but the President did not share them. On March 8, 1867, McCulloch suggested that the President show a conciliatory spirit by making prompt appointment of military governors, "saying that it would have a good effect, and would tend to prevent impeachment. The President got very angry, and swore vehemently, and said they might impeach and be d-m-d—he was tired of being threatened—that he would not be influenced by any such considerations, but would go forward in the conscientious discharge of his duty without reference to Congress, and meet all the consequences."<sup>1</sup> The recklessness of Johnson, however he might deplore it, Browning admired more than he ever had admired the conscientiousness of Lincoln.

By August of 1867 the difficulty with Stanton had come to a head. The man who had urged the veto of the Tenure of Office Act while adroitly dodging the necessity of writing the veto message was suspended from the cabinet under the act. On August 13 Grant met with the cabinet as secretary of war *ad interim*. Two years before, April 18, 1865, Browning had set down his opinion that Johnson was a radical and Grant cool and dispassionate, but he had long since changed his mind on both points, and Grant speedily came in for castigation. August 16 he wrote:

"Very manifestly Grant had been stuffed for the occasion—

"This is the second meeting of the cabinet Grant has attended and both have been marked by a rather ridiculous arrogance. He has been swift to deliver his crude opinions upon all sub-

<sup>1</sup>See diary entry for March 8, 1867.



jects, and especially upon legal questions, as if they were oracles and not to be controverted. Today he waited for nobody, but proceeded at once to deliver his opinions upon Mr Binkleys suggestions, as if when he had done so the whole subject was disposed of—saying quite flippantly that if the President wished to know who furnished them for publication, he had better called [*sic*] upon the news paper correspondents about the City, as they, no doubt, knew where they got them.

“Before we adjourned both his opinions and his manners underwent a modification and it was agreed that Mr Binkley should call upon heads of Departments to know whether such papers were on file, and if so then to pursue the enquiry.”

Browning turned to Sherman as a possible steady influence on Grant. He consulted the latter as to what use Grant would make of the army should Congress impeach the President and pass over his veto an act suspending him pending trial; he got little satisfaction from Sherman, though in cabinet meeting Grant declared that in such a case it would be the President’s duty to resist Congress.

Browning recorded in great detail the proceedings of the cabinet meeting when Grant announced he had surrendered the war office on the Senate’s failure to approve Stanton’s removal. His account adds nothing new to our knowledge of the transaction and not very much on the impeachment that followed. As a direct result of the impeachment and Stanberry’s resignation to assist in the President’s defense Browning took over the duties of the Attorney General’s office as well as his own, turning it over to Evarts when the Senate refused to confirm Stanberry’s reappointment after Johnson’s acquittal. Johnson’s coolness and fighting qualities under the strain of impeachment manifestly won Browning’s admiration. Placing his estimates of the men side by side one concludes that he thought Johnson a greater and more courageous, if less fortunate, man than the president he succeeded.

Yielding place to the Comus crew that came into office with Grant in 1869 Johnson and his cabinet could retire with a certain dignity. Their policy of reconstruction, of liberal treatment of the South, had been defeated by the congressional policy, but

the moral victory on the impeachment gilded the defeat with honor and Browning could well write the *finis* to his career in national politics. "I am glad the time has come for me for me [*sic*] to quit my official position, and to throw off its labors and responsibilities, but I do so without regret at having had the port folio as long as I have. On the contrary I am proud of having been a member of Mr Johnson's Cabinet, and having faithfully struggled with him, in one of the most memorable periods of our history, and under great disadvantages, trials and difficulties to restore peace and prosperity to a distracted and afflicted Country. Had we had the sympathy and cooperation of Congress these desirable ends could have been attained. But Congress has steadily labored to thwart the measures of the Executive branch of the government—has stripped it of power and deprived it of means, and done all that could be done to deprive it of the confidence of the Country History will set all right."

One more public task confronted him. Returning to Quincy in 1869 on September 1 he was asked if he would accept the Democratic nomination for one of the two members from Adams County in the Illinois Constitutional Convention of 1869. He was asked only to pledge himself in opposition to negro suffrage and this he willingly did. Elected to the convention, his main work in it was in the committees on the judiciary, on municipal corporations, and on representation. He took a great interest in the question of minority representation grafted into the constitution. All told he was well satisfied with the work of the convention save that he laughed at the erection of a Superior Court in Cook County with similar jurisdiction to the Circuit Court and regarded the railroad and warehouse article as unsound. The question of negro suffrage had been settled by the fifteenth amendment to the federal constitution and to this the convention necessarily had to submit.

The last period of Browning's life begins with the adjournment of the convention. Thenceforth his part in politics was limited to an occasional speech, to a political conversation with a possible candidate for the presidency. He supported the Liberal Republican movement in 1872, both in that year and in 1876

urging David Davis as a possible candidate for the presidency to unite Liberal Republicans and Democrats. With such slight participation in public life old animosities against him grew cold. Men remembered merely that he had held great offices in critical times and assigned to him the homage due the elder statesman.

His legal practice was now his chief activity. He had long since got rid of his Washington firm. In June of 1866 he had bought Hill out of partnership. Ewing was dead and Browning's rise to the cabinet had debarred him thenceforth from active practice. He did, therefore, what Lincoln had hoped to do—returned to his old partner and took up the practice of law in his own home. In the latter period of his life his work, save for a defense of an occasional criminal, was almost exclusively railroad practice.

Browning and Bushnell had both been interested in railroads from the beginning of the fifties. Both had been active in the organization and reorganization of the Northern Cross and other railroads around Quincy that finally coalesced into the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy. Browning had early been called on to defend railroad suits, to draw consolidations, bond transfers, etc. Such work had continued to attract his interest during his intermittent practice in the days of the Civil War. In 1869 he had launched definitely into railroad law, speedily becoming the trusted attorney of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy.

The period was a crucial one in the development of our railroad code. Not merely the questions of damage to persons and property by the new agency, but innumerable questions as to service, regulation of rates, rights of the public, special taxation, demanded legal adjudication. The question as to how far state regulation constituted an interference with private property had to be settled by litigation. Henry Adams said his generation was mortgaged to the railroads, and Browning was one of the leading spokesmen for the mortgagee.

As attorney for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, he brought before the Supreme Court of the United States one

case of the highest importance involving the validity of the Iowa regulation acts; decided in the same session with *Munn vs. Illinois*, the leader of the Granger cases, the Supreme Court in both cases affirmed the right of the state to regulate rates. In tax cases, in the Chicago Lake Front Grab case, Browning was frankly on the side of vested interests. Justice Charles B. Lawrence, deposed from the Supreme Bench by the voters for a decision against the state railroad and warehouse commission, was his lifelong friend. In the old Whig the honest championship of the rights of property was nothing remarkable.

Browning, one gathers, was not inclined ever to ponder the deeper meanings of things. It would not be surprising if he failed to see that the railroads were the very incarnation of the new industrial era that had overturned the South and with it the southern plantation life that he loved. That the Kentuckian should be the body servant of the interests that had overthrown the Kentucky civilization was the irony of fate.

The diary leaves only the impression that Browning rarely resorted to daydreaming of what was and what might have been. On the anniversary of his wedding day he very often bears testimony to the happiness of his wedded life. Most New Year's days see a pious confession of his shortcomings for the past year and a prayer to do better for the future; but it rings no truer than a Mather's reference to himself as a "poor worm." A man with more delicate imagination would have toward the end been driven to reflection by his physical surroundings if by nothing else. The great river flowed past Quincy, the Missouri shore sloped away beyond it as it had before the backwoods settlement fifty years before to which a young lawyer had come to make his fortune. Fate had carried him farther than he could have hoped, if not so far as he might have aspired. It had given him fortune, position, and a place only below the seats of the greatest in a national crisis. If his ideals had not been realized he could console himself that the losing cause had been approved by Browning even if the winning one had been favored by the gods. Yet when Browning reflected on the man whose close association with him was his chief title to fame, he merely quoted and retailed gossip about an



old friend who for some reason the world seemed disposed to set among the immortals. To his intimate friend Lincoln was never a hero; the limitation in Browning's vision cannot be more sharply stated.

The last years of his life were gracious ones. He had built his last home on a full square of land on a little hill more than a mile from the old Quincy; even today, changed to a charitable institution, in color and in form it is a beautiful house; and it was Browning's care to set it in a garden of the flowers he had always loved and tended himself. The recollections of those who in their youth knew him as an old man are of a stately gentleman, clinging to the last to his ruffled shirt and the courtly manners that went with it, enjoying his flowers, setting out baths for birds, dispensing a generous and informal hospitality to friends, acquaintances, and visiting strangers alike. Breakfasts in which the guests and family served themselves became one of the charming ways of associating with intimate family friends. Egg-nogs occasionally appeared to mark days of rejoicing. Christmas was noted by the appearance of Santa Claus, and New Year's by New Year's calls and receptions. After Mrs. Browning's return from Washington cards were no longer forbidden except on the Sabbath. Life in Quincy was varied by visits to Chicago, to New York, and by one trip to Colorado in the hope of benefiting Mrs. Browning's health.

The Brownings dispensed a lavish charity, much of which people learned about only through chance. More obvious was their rearing child after child in the family, often those whose physical defects would make even the moderately charitable shrink from them while pitying them. Browning had to dispense help to relatives overtaken by poverty in the ruin of the old class society in Kentucky and Missouri and he did it all uncomplainingly.

Almost to his death he enjoyed better health than most men. On his sixtieth birthday he recorded the fact that he had never had toothache or headache and that his eyes were unimpaired. He suffered from occasional ailments of digestion which culminated in a very serious illness in the spring of 1867, but his



recovery was complete. At seventy he could still travel around the Military Tract on C. B. and Q. business. The last six months of his life at seventy-five included two trips to Chicago and two to Springfield. His final illness and his death came very suddenly, perhaps as the result of a discovery that the rascality of a trusted son-in-law had swept away his fortune.

In October of 1873 Emma Lord, brought up by the Brownings and loved as a daughter, had married a certain Orrin Skinner of New York, described as a college man of most remarkable attainments and prepossession. The Brownings were deeply taken with him. From the first the diary overflows with references to him. Apparently some time after 1876 he engaged Browning in a mining speculation in a certain Allied Mines Company, playing doubtless on Browning's propensity to grasp at speculations that promised millions. How Skinner involved Browning past his depth, how and when Browning became aware of it, are matters of conjecture. As Skinner's later career was frankly criminal, the worst may be imagined. The only authentic story can be gathered from the settlement of the estate.

Browning's will provided that after his wife's death one-third of his estate should go to Emma Lord Skinner and the remainder be divided among the children of his and Mrs. Browning's brothers and sisters. It constituted Mrs. Browning executrix without bond. As claims against the estate appeared a long series of notes drawn to Browning by Skinner and the Allied Mines, endorsed by Browning and discounted with various Quincy, Chicago, and St. Louis banks. As countervailing assets appeared a note of Skinner's for \$17,850 dated January 1, 1880, and a note of the Allied Mines for \$75,000 dated June 28, 1881. Both were worthless. Mrs. Browning, clinging to her faith in Skinner, made him further advances out of the estate's funds, apparently in the hope of saving the Allied Mines' assets. The creditor banks protested, demanding that she give bond for a due execution of the will. Finally she resigned the execution February 29, 1884, and an administrator, *de bonis non*, was appointed. Long litigation was necessary to clear the title to certain Iowa land, and it was not until 1899 that the final report was

made showing total assets of \$76,340.85 as against indebtedness of \$140,702.50.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Browning and Emma died in poverty, Mrs. Browning January 23, 1885, and Emma a little later. Of Emma's three children two died in infancy and youth. Remorseless in its caprice, frontier America had broken one of the families it seemed to have delighted to honor.

<sup>1</sup>Records of the Probate Court, Quincy, Illinois.

# DIARY

1850 to 1864



1850

No dream of fame can fill  
The bosom which must vainly pine  
For sweet affection's thrill

But words that breathe of tenderness  
And smiles we know are true  
Are warmer than the summer time  
And brighter than the dew.<sup>1</sup>

The Rev Robt. Hall had contracted an inveterate habit of smoking. A friend fearing the consequences to his health, put in his hands Dr Adam Clarke's pamphlet on "The use and abuse of tobacco," with a request that he would read it. In a few days he returned it, and said "Thank you, Sir, for Adam Clarke's pamphlet. I can't refute his arguments, and I can't give up smoking."

You cannot live *for* men without living *with* them. Serve God then by the active service of men. Contemplate more the good you *can do* than the evil you can only lament. Allow yourself to see the loveliness of virtue amid all its imperfections.

Sir I McIntosh 3 Halls works F. 51.

Reason frowns on him who wastes that reflection in a destiny independent of him which he ought to reserve for actions of which he is the master.

Sir I McIntosh 3 Halls works F. 51

<sup>1</sup>The year 1850 is in a small volume bound in plum-colored leather, originally made to fasten with a strap from one cover passing through a flap on the other; the strap has been cut off. The book contains 122 unnumbered pages (one leaf at least cut out), 3½ by 5 inches, unruled. The quotations, etc., are written on the inside cover and first eight pages of the volume; "Traveling Expenses in the Summer of 1850" appears on page 43. The last entry in the book is that for November 9, November 10, 1850 beginning on page 3.



A *cheerful* old age is a fine thing—a *gay* old age a very absurd one

Miss H More.

I have never been able to get through a single page of histories which have no approximation to the manners & passions of this world. must have *men & women*, with whom I can have sentiments, affections, and interests in common: I dont care how romantic the story, or how exalted the character, provided it be still *probable* adventure, and possible perfection.

Miss H More.

Shakespear is the poet of human actions and human passions. Lines from him occur to my mind every hour, suitable to *every* character, and to *every* occurrence.

Pope is the eternal embellisher of common sense, common life, and just thinking—his every line is a maxim or a portrait.

Miss H More

All sublimities should be short: the mind cannot be transported long, and it is glad to recover its natural and ordinary train; a passive sort of content is the best state.

Miss H More.

When the Abbe Raynal was introduced to Dr Johnson and advanced to take his hand, the Dr drew back and put his hands behind him, and afterwards replied to the expostulation of a friend, Sir, I will not shake hands with an infidel!

At another time I remember asking him if he did not think the Dean of Derry a very agreeable man, to which he made no answer; and on my repeating my question, child, said he, I will not speak anything in favour of a Sabbath breaker, to please you nor any one else.

Miss H More

1 vol Biography, 223,

It is an established maxim with me, that the truest objects of warm attachment are the small parts of great characters. I never considered the patriotic Brutus with any delight as the assertor of freedom, and as "refulgent from the State of Cesar's fate;" no, it is the gentle, compassionate Brutus that engages my

affection, who refused to disturb the slumbers of the poor boy who attended him in that anxious night, when he destroyed himself, and so much needed his services

Miss H. M.

If I wanted to punish an enemy, it should be by fastening on him the trouble of constantly hating somebody

Miss H. M.

#### EXPENSE ACCOUNT TO SPRINGFIELD

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Decr 1850                        |         |
| Cash on hand                     | \$57.25 |
| Paid at Liberty for self         | 25      |
| For Pinkhams driver              | 40      |
| At naples for Wheat              | 2.41    |
| " " for B & B                    | 4.85    |
| From Naples to Springfield B & B | 4.50    |
| Porterage at Springfield—self    | 25      |
| At Springfield                   | 5.00    |
| At Mt Sterling on way home       | 50      |
|                                  | <hr/>   |
|                                  | 18.16   |

#### TRAVELLING EXPENSES IN THE SUMMER OF 1850

June 3—We left Quincy with the intention of going to St Louis—thence up the Illinois river to Peoria & thence to Knoxville, where I expected to leave Mrs B. till I attended U S Court at Springfield. When we reached St Louis the weather was very warm, the Illinois River low & Mrs B so unwell that we concluded to return home, which we did on the next day

I paid out on this trip, for selves & servant Polly \$21.00

Wednesday June 19 1850 Left Quincy for Kentucky, taking passage on Lucy Bertram for St. Louis. Morning warm & sultry tho cloudy, about 1 O'clock P. M. when at Cincinnati landing had a heavy storm of thunder, wind and rain. The heat was much mitigated. Continued to rain gently the balance of the day. Our servant Polly being sick we left her at home, in charge of Miss Lange, and took with us Irish Nora.

I started with the following funds for expense account

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Missouri paper | \$210.00        |
| Gold           | 103.00          |
| Silver         | 5.00            |
|                | <u>\$318.00</u> |

Thursday June 20 7 o'clock A M reached St. Louis Remained on board Lucy Bertram till 4 P M. when we took passage for Louisville on board Steamer Saladin. Day clear and hot Among the passengers for Louisville was M D Browning Esqr<sup>1</sup> & family of Burlington, Iowa, and Mr Southack & family of St. Louis Left St Louis at 7 P M, and ran all night. At 9 or 10 O clock in the evening a negro man fell overboard & was lost

Friday June 21 Morning clear & hot. Still in the Mississippi River. About 7 O'clock passed the Nashville from St Louis to N. O. hard aground on sand bar. Lost an hour endeavoring to pull her off, but left her where we found her.

At 11 A M reached Cairo and entered the Ohio River

Saturday June 22 Morning clear & warm—occasional clouds through the day, tho but little mitigation of the heat. Paid fare from St Louis to Louisville \$8.

Sunday June 23 Reached Portland this morning at 8 O'clock, took a hack to Louisville and stopped at Galt house Were detained several hours last night by fog.

After reaching Galt House Mrs B was taken with diarhea Called in Dr W. B. Caldwell, and she was soon relieved

Monday June 24 Nora, our servant, wanted to go home. Put her aboard Amazonian, paid to Mr McBride, the Clerk, for her passage to St Louis \$4.00 gave her \$2.50 in gold & started her home Paid Dr Caldwell's bill for medical services \$3.00 At 3 O'clock P. M. left Louisville on the steamer Majr Barbour for Frankfort.

Tuesday June 25. At 12 O clock reached Frankfort, and

<sup>1</sup>Milton David Browning, younger brother of Orville. Born December 23, 1809; married Anna Brown about 1840; died November 6, 1881. As a boy he lived with his elder brother at Quincy and studied law with him, later settling in practice at Burlington, Iowa.

took lodging at the Weiseicer House. My brother & family went on to Lexington, in the afternoon train of cars. We remained in Frankfort. In the evening, in company with Judges Marshall<sup>1</sup> & Simpson<sup>2</sup> visited the cemetery where a monument is being erected to the memory of the officers of Kentucky who have fallen in different battles of their country. The cemetery is on an eminence overhanging the Kentucky River, and commanding a view of the entire valley in which the Town is situated. It is a spot of great beauty, and susceptible of a very high degree of improvement and embellishment. On its South margin, immediately on the brow of the cliff from which you look down two or three hundred feet into the river, embowered in majestic forest trees, and surrounded on the north by a crescent shaped cane brake, is a little plateau, of perhaps a quarter of an acre in dimension, in the centre of which at the roots of two sycamore trees are the graves of Daniel Boon & wife. No stone, or monument, or enclosure marks the spot. There are the graves with a thick rich carpet of blue grass, and the trees, the cane brake, the rocky precipice and the river as Nature planted & <sup>when</sup> placed them, and as the old Indian hunter loved them as he lived, and just the spot one would suppose he would have chosen to repose in, but for the beautiful landscape of cultivated fields, and lovely mansions which opens upon the view from the opposite side of the river.

The monument stands in the centre of the cemetery—is a shaft of about sixty feet in height, composed of large blocks of Italian marble, and surmounted by a statue of the Goddess of <sup>victory</sup> ~~Liberty~~ holding a wreath in each hand. All was prepared in Italy and brot here ready to be put up. They are at present at work upon, and have reached about half the height to which it is to be carried. On the top of each block is engraved the name of the battle of which it is commemorative, and underneath the names of the officers who fell in such battle

<sup>1</sup>Thomas A. Marshall, 1794-1871. Judge of the State Court of Appeals, 1835-1856.

<sup>2</sup>Judge James Simpson. Judge of the State Court of Appeals, 1847-1860; born 1796; resided at Winchester where Browning stopped a few days later.

The block nearest the base is appropriated to the battle of the Blue Licks. Then follows River Raisen, Tippecanoe, Palo Alto, Resacca de la Palma, Monterey, Buena Vista &c in about the order in which they are here arranged.

Wednesday June 26 Took the morning train of cars for Lexington—Stopped at Chile's Hotel till after dinner, and then came out to Capt O'Bannon<sup>1</sup> where we now are

|                  |                                           |                   |        |              |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|
| Thursday June 27 | At Capt OBannon's—weather still dry & hot | Funds as follows— | Gold   | \$168.00     |
|                  |                                           |                   | Paper  | 65.00        |
|                  |                                           |                   | Silver | 1.75         |
|                  |                                           |                   |        | <hr/> 234.75 |

Friday June 28 Still hot & dry and crops suffering from the drouth—Corn not more than 10 or 12 inches high, and much of the hemp thin & suffering. To day we had a refreshing shower, but not enough to do more than wet the surface of the earth.

Saturday June 29 Hot & dry. About dark Mrs B was taken with diarhea which continued all night. At daybreak sent for Dr Darby, who soon checked the progress of the disease—visited her again in the afternoon, and left pills for her to take at night

Sunday June 30 which procured her a good nights rest, and she found herself much improved next morning. †To day the family were all together for short time†

Monday July 1 To day OBannon commenced harvesting his wheat He has not a great deal—I believe only 8 acres, but it is a very excellent piece, and well and handsomely matured

This evening had a heavy rain, the first for many weeks

Thursday July 2 To day Mrs Simpson arrived from Winchester. Eliza again very ill, and visited by Dr Darby Another fine rain at night. Got Maria, our servant from Frankfort

<sup>1</sup>Elijah O'Bannon, husband of Talitha Ann Browning, Orville's sister, born in 1819. One of his daughters, Eliza O'Bannon, later Mrs. Eliza Price Miller, lived with the Brownings for some time in Quincy and Washington and had possession of his diary until its sale to the Illinois State Historical Library.



Wednesday July 3. This morning brother Milton started on his return to Iowa. About 11 O'clock left Capt OBannon's in company with Mrs Simpson. Stopped in Lexington at Childs Hotel. to dinner, and in afternoon came on to Winchester in the carriage. The day was excessively hot, and there were six of us in and upon the carriage, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Browning, Miss Brassfield, Miss Carra Simpson, myself and the driver. Arrived at Winchester at 8 o'clock

Thursday July 4. Day clear & burning hot, and as dull & quiet as it is hot—No demonstration of any kind in honor of the day except a temperance lecture which I did not hear

Friday July 5. Mrs Browning quite ill today—visited by Dr Mills

Miss Mary Simpson came home from her walnut Hill School on a visit of a day or two.

My trunk arrived from Lexington where I had left it with Maria, to be forwarded with her on the stage

Saturday 6

Sunday 7

Monday 8

Tuesday 9 At Winchester—weather very hot & dry

Wednesday July 10 On the afternoon of today intelligence reached us that President Taylor died this morning at 4 O'clock The nation may congratulate itself in having in the line of succession a patriot & statesman eminently qualified for the duties of the high & important station

Millard Filmore is a man of native energy & vigor of intellect, of fine attainments and valuable experience in Civil affairs

as a  
American in all his feelings, and of unquestioned devotion to the interests of his Country and a true whig

With him at the helm the Country will have nothing to fear—the whigs will have nothing to fear. The duplicity of a Tyler will not again distract us. Firm, honest, manly and patriotic and better versed in civil affairs than his lamented predecessor the Country will lose nothing by the exchange

Will not his accession to the Presidency increase the chances of the passage of Mr Clays compromise bill? We shall see.

At night of this day there came up a thunder storm and fine rain

\*Thursday July 11 At Winchester—Weather hot & dry

Friday July 12 At 5½ O'clock this morning left Winchester for the Olympian Spring,<sup>1</sup> and reached Mt. Sterling 15 miles at 9½ A. M. The road is over a hilly, broken Country, but of fertile soil, not too undulating for successful and convenient cultivation, well improved, and with indications of a very considerable amount of agricultural wealth—Mt. Sterling is a thrifty comfortable looking village, quite above the average of Kentucky Towns.

We remained here till after dinner, and during our stay had a thunder storm and heavy shower of rain. At 4½ O'clock P M we resumed our journey, the Spring being still 15 miles distant. Our road lay through a Country similar to that we had passed over in the morning—broken but fertile—the growth being walnut, sugar-tree, elm, ash &c, and the limestone everywhere near the surface. Night overtook us ten miles from Mt Sterling and five miles from the Spring

We turned into a farm owned by old Capt Anderson, and spent the night with him and his family.

Saturday July 13. About 5 O'clock this morning we were again on our way for the spring where we arrived to breakfast. We found there a company of 40 or 50 persons—chiefly Brands & Higgins from Lexington.

Mrs Menafee, Miss Sallie McCaw, Mr & Mrs Clay, Miss Lewis, Mr Martin & Lady & Mrs Martin and Majr Breckenridge & Lady were of the company

The country from Mt Sterling to the spring was of the same general character with that between Winchester & Mt Sterling except that the hills become continually higher and more precipitous. When within a mile and a half of the spring we came suddenly into the regions of pine. Thousands and tens of thousands of beautiful ones of all sizes from the most minute

<sup>1</sup>The springs in question were in Bath County, Kentucky.

bushes just bursting through the earth, to trees 70, 80 & 100 feet high skirted the road. The hills which encircled the springs are covered with the same growth, interspersed with fine oaks & chesnuts. There appears to be but little land suited to cultivation, yet the country is rich in its forests. The springs are salt and sulphur, black sulphur and chalybeate of unusual coldness and strength

Sunday July 14.

Monday July 15.

At the Olympian

Tuesday July 16 This morning at 5½ o'clock Mrs Browning & myself and Mr Martin & two Mrs Martins left the Olympian for the white sulphur spring, five miles distant which we reached in time for breakfast. The ride was a lovely one over a mountain ridge through the pine forests

The spring is a pure, strong white sulphur, and the accommodations much better than where we left. Most of the company from the Olympian came over to day and dined with us. A mile and a half distant on the road to the Olympian is a very strong black sulphur spring, and 1½ miles in another direction a chalybeate.

Wednesday 17

Thursday 18 At white sulphur

Friday 19 To day the ladies were all weighed—Mrs Browning weighing 113, having reached that from 104 which was her weight a week before

Saturday 20 After breakfast this morning we started upon an excursion into the mountains. Several of the ladies went in the carriage & two on horse back. A mile & a half from the springs we left the carriage and commenced the ascent of the mountain, Mrs Browning and Mrs Hickman mounted on horse back the rest of us on foot. The road ran straight up the mountain side through forests of pine oak & chestnut, the smell of the pine very perceptible in the atmosphere

In many places the road is so abrupt as to make it extremely difficult for a horse to ascend. After climbing for a half mile

from where we left the carriage we reached the summit, & had before us a landscape of extraordinary grandeur and beauty. Far as the eye could reach in every direction the view was unbroken.

Eighteen miles off in one direction lay Owingsville bathed in a flood of sunlight, distinctly visible to the naked eye through the clear <sup>pure</sup> ~~but~~ atmosphere which surrounded us. Equally distant in other directions farms were seen chequering the mountain sides, while on every hand peak after peak lifted its head to the skies, and seemed to support to the clouds

Hundreds of feet below us we looked down into the tops of the tallest trees, and the whole extent of country embraced by the eye was covered with dense forest, and <sup>clothed</sup> ~~covered~~ with a mantle of deep rich green

Sunday 21

Monday 22

Tuesday 23 At White Sulpher—nothing remarkable

Wednesday 24 This morning after breakfast Mrs Yates, Mrs Nannie Martin, Miss Wilkinson, Mr Goodpasture & myself started upon an expedition into the mountains. The first object was to see the spouting spring five miles distant. To reach it we ascended the valley of clear creek four miles. This valley is hemmed in on both sides by precipitous mountains covered with dense forests of oak, poplar, beech, chestnut, yellow & spruce pine and magnolia—the trees of unusual height, and the foliage of the deepest, richest green.

Not infrequently from the mountain side solid walls of limestone are projected, fifty or one hundred feet high and from quarter to a half mile in length, on the summits of which is soil enough to sustain groves of the tallest pine which approach to the very verge of the precipice, and stretch off again up the mountains side to the summit. The valley is wide enough to admit of a succession of very good farms. The road lies along the bed of a clear mountain stream, is rocky but almost level, affording a delightful ride on horseback



After ascending the stream Southwardly for 3 or 4 miles we left the valley & crossed a mountain range to the S E to the spring in the valley on the other side. This is a beautiful stream of clear, cold free stone water gushing from under the roots of a large oak tree at the mountains base. But the chief interest of the excursion was found in the wild grander of the mountain scenery. Up the side of the mountain from under which the stream issues we visited an ore bank from which a large quantity of iron ore, said to be of superior quality has been taken. The entire surface of the earth to the highest peaks of the hill is covered with pebbles similar to those found in the beds of streams, and large masses of conglomerations of pebbles & sand. Descending again to the spring where we had left our horses, we mounted, and returning upon the road we had gone till we reached the top of the ridge we had crossed, we left the road and directed our course along the mountain side north through heavy forest and thick undergrowth for nearly a mile, when we struck an angle or corner of the mountain of solid rock which forbid further progress on horse back. Accordingly we dismounted and having secured our horses in the bushes we continued the journey on foot. From where we were one side of the mountain lay to the west the other to the S. We were at the S W angle & directed our course E along the S side, clinging to the bushes to support a foot hold, with dense forests of the tallest pine, poplars & Chestnuts far beneath us, and others again thrusting their green boughs into the clouds far above our heads. We clambered along under overhanging rocks, from every crack a crevice of which the laurel was throwing out its branches, and tempting you with its rich beautiful blossoms of pink & white to the hazardous enterprise of climbing to get them. Having continued in this course about a half mile, with much difficulty we turned another sharp angle and bearing N E soon found ourselves under a shelf of rock projecting many feet over us, with a good level floor beneath and sufficiently capacious to garrison & shelter several regiments of men. Through the rock was a rent or chasm, just wide enough to admit one person at a time, and up which we clambered, or rather crawled to the height of 30 or 40 ft more, and reached



a terrace above the rock under which we had been sheltered. From this point the view is sublime beyond description—that is—beyond any power of description possessed by me. Above and below, as before, were the forests of the tallest trees, huge rocks beetling over you, deep, dark chasms yawning beneath, and every hand fearful precipices that made the head reel with giddiness, and yet filled you with that strange and inexplicable desire to cast yourself from their summits, and learn what sort of sensation there is produced by floating thro the air.

After enjoying the scene, not till we were satisfied, but long as our time would allow, we returned to where we had left our horses, & finding them all secure, and mounting retraced our steps to the road, and made the best of our way back to the springs, where with appetities not likely to be captious or fastidious, we arrived in time for dinner.

Thursday 25 To day the ladies were again weighed—Mrs Browning weighed 117. This afternoon paid my bill to Dr. Lafayette Yates proprietor of the spring, preparatory to leaving tomorrow morning.

\*Friday 26 This morning after breakfast we took our leave of the white Sulphur Dr Yates & Mrs Nannie Martin bore us company as far as the Olympian where they dined with us. We spent this day at the Olympian.

About night our hack arrived from Winchester. Mrs Menafee spent the evening with us.

Saturday 27. Having taken leave of our friends last night we were off this morning a little after day break. Reached Mt. Sterling by  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 A M and remained till after dinner. At 4 P M continued our journey. Five miles from Mt Sterling met with Judge French<sup>1</sup> who insisted that we should turn into his house and pass the night, which we did, enjoying the warm hospitality of a most estimable and interesting family.

Sunday 28 Early this morning we took leave of them at Judge French's, and reached Judge Simpson's in Winchester at 8 O'clock A. M.

<sup>1</sup>Perhaps Richard French, judge of the Circuit Court, member of the 24th, 28th, and 30th congresses.

\*Monday 29 At Winchester

Tuesday 30 At 11 O'clock this morning took leave of Mrs Browning and Judge Simpsons family, and departed for home Reached Lexington about 2 o'clock—Dined at Chiles—Called on Mrs Jouett, & then went to brother Marcus,<sup>1</sup> where I remained till 5½ P M—then took his horse & buggy & rode out to Capt O'Bannon's. There I met Hon H O Brown & his daughter Miss Mary Brown from Bardstown. Remained at the Cpts all night

ea

\*Wednesday 31. This morning at 4½ O'clock bade them adieu at OBannons, and resumed my journey homeward. At Lexington took the cars for Frankfort where we breakfasted, and then took the stage for Louisville Mrs Castleman of Fayette, on her way to Wisconsin to visit her daughter, dangerously ill, was in company and placed herself under my care. Twelve miles from Louisville she stopped for the purpose of seeing her son, who resided in the neighbourhood, and getting him to go with her to Wisconsin I brought her baggage on, & she is to meet me at the Galt House tomorrow

Before we reached Louisville there came on a tremendous rain. On our arrival the water was running in torrents through the streets Stopped at the Galt House where I now am.

\*Thursday Aug 1 Mrs Castleman & her son came down to day, but being no boat for St Louis they concluded to go to Madison Ia.<sup>2</sup> thence to Indianapolis & thence to Chicago

At 7½ O'clock P M I left Louisville on Board the Mustang for Cairo to take my chances there for a boat to St Louis We were till 11 O'clock at night getting into the first lock, where we remained till day when we cleared the canal, and made the best of our way down the river

\*Friday Aug 2 On board Mustang making our way down the river Weather very hot & river low.

Saturday Aug 3 On board Mustang running down Ohio. To day we got on bar at mouth of trade water & lost about 2

<sup>1</sup>Marcus Elliott Browning, younger brother of Orville; born November 25, 1807; died January 14, 1895.

<sup>2</sup>Ia. was formerly the abbreviation used for Indiana.

hours. Got off & kept on our way till about midnight, when, being in the neighborhood of Cumberland bar we lay by till day, that we might the better cross it without danger.

Sunday Augt 4 This morning crossed Cumberland bar without difficulty—struck but did not stick, and without further trouble reached Cairo about 3 P. M. No boat for either N O or St. Louis, and no telling how long we may be detained.

Monday Augt 5 Still at Cairo. Weather hot & dry, and no apparent prospect of getting off

At 9 Oclock this morning the Columbus from St Louis for N O came down and took off my traveling companions who had come from Louisville on Mustang, and were waiting for a passage to N O. viz Mr Benjamin, wife & three sons—Mr Payne & son, Mr Ringold & Mr Burr 9 Oclock P. M. the steamer Iroquois from N O made her appearance on which I embarked for St Louis

Tuesday Augt 6 On our way up the river—weather excessively hot boat runs slow, but little to eat—no ice and nothing to drink but the warm muddy water of the Mississippi In the afternoon there was a very heavy fall of rain and hail, but continued as hot after as before

Wednesday Augt 7. Reached St Louis at 3 P M and took passage on Kate Kearney for home

Thursday Augt 8 Reached home at 11 O'clock A. M. Weather hot & dry

Friday Augt 9 Do

Saturday Augt 10 I have this day formed some resolutions which I hope by the blessing of Providence, and thro grace to be able to maintain.

There are few persons who are not guilty of a very culpable waste of time, and of a species of mental dissipation and trifling which at once enfeebles & debases the intellect, and I am conscious that there is a long list of such offences chargeable to my account. I am fully aware that I have not fixed that high value upon time which it actually possesses, and I am not without com-

punction for its waste. I have resolved on amendment and ask the great Judge to whom an account must finally be rendered, to give me grace and strength to keep my thoughts from wandering to subjects sinful and unprofitable, and to guide every act of my life into the paths of virtue and rectitude

Sunday Augt 11 Started this morning for Rushville to attend Schuyler Court. Got Pinkham to send a boy, with horse & buggy to take me as far as Mt Sterling where I staid all night—

Monday Augt 12 Sent Pinkham's boy back with the buggy & came on to Rushville with Col Singleton<sup>1</sup> in his carriage

Tuesday Augt 13

Wednesday Augt 14 At Rushville

Thursday Augt 15 At Rushville. To day a whig Convention met at Quincy to nominate a candidate for Congress

In the afternoon telegraphic despatches were received, announcing that I had been nominated by acclamation. I have not wanted to run—on the contrary have been averse to it—but in obedience to what seems to be the general wish of the whigs of the district I have yielded my own opinion, and consented to take the field

Yet I have not much hope of success.<sup>2</sup> There is a very large democratic majority in the District, and my professional engagements are such as to forbid my canvassing the district to any tolerable extent. Indeed for a good portion of my time I will be attending courts outside of the district entirely.

<sup>1</sup>James W. Singleton, 1811-1892. Practiced law, medicine, railroad promotion, and politics; 1844, brigadier general of Illinois militia; took a prominent part in the Mormon War; said to have arrested Brigham Young and kept him sawing wood all night. A Whig who turned Democrat on the Nebraska issue, and was notoriously engaged during the Civil War on various peace overtures to the Confederacy. He was associated with Browning in 1864-1865 in a speculative attempt to run southern produce out of the Confederacy through Grant's lines. Resided 1833 to 1852 at Mt. Sterling, Illinois; afterwards at Quincy. *Quincy Whig*, February 4, 1861, varies from some of above dates.

<sup>2</sup>On Browning's nomination the *Quincy Whig*, August 20, 1850, commented that the delegates felt that no Whig could succeed if Browning could not, and that a thorough canvass would bring victory.



Friday Augt 16.

Saturday Augt 17 At Rushville

Sunday Augt 18 At Rushville

Monday Augt 19 This morning left Rushville for Mt Sterling where court commences to day. Met with Lawrence<sup>1</sup> at Mt Sterling, and he and I, upon invitation, stayed at Dr Singletons during court

Tuesday Augt 20

Wednesday Augt 21 At Mt. Sterling

Thursday Augt 22 To day Court adjourned a while after dinner, and at 3 P. M. Lawrence & myself started home in his buggy. The weather was excessively hot & we had to travel slowly—Took supper at Columbus & came on to Quincy, where we arrived just at midnight

Friday Augt 23 At Quincy

Saturday Augt 24 Spent the day at Quincy

Between 8 & 9 Oclock at night took passage in the stage in company with Blackwell<sup>2</sup> & Skinner,<sup>3</sup> for Griggsville, on our way to Pike Court—travelled all night, and reached Griggsville before breakfast Sunday morning

Sunday Augt 25 After breakfast procured a hack and came down to Pittsfield

Monday Augt 26

Tuesday Augt 27 At Pittsfield attending Court

<sup>1</sup>Perhaps Charles B. Lawrence, 1820-1883. Practiced law in Quincy, 1845-1856; travelled two years in Europe; circuit judge, 1861-1864; justice of Supreme Court of Illinois, 1864-1873; afterward practiced law in Chicago.

Who the other Lawrence is of whom Browning speaks on October 13 cannot be told.

<sup>2</sup>Robert S. Blackwell, 1823-1863. Son of David Blackwell, an early Illinois editor and politician; studied law with Browning, practicing first at Rushville and then at Chicago. Author of *Blackwell on Tax Titles* and other legal works. A later entry in the diary indicates that his life was cut short by intemperance.

<sup>3</sup>Onias C. Skinner, 1817-1877. Circuit judge, 1851-1854; justice of Supreme Court, 1855-1858; first president of Carthage and Quincy Railroad; Democrat.



Wednesday Augt 28 To day addressed the People of Pike on political subjects<sup>1</sup>

Thursday Augt 29

Friday Augt 30

Saturday Augt 31 At Pittsfield attending Court. During these three days a great deal of rain has fallen, and the weather unusually chilly for the season of the year—

Sunday Sept 1. At Pittsfield

The rain has ceased—the clouds are dispersed, the sun is again shining out, but the day cold & uncomfortable.

I have been sitting by the fire all day—would suffer without it

Monday Sept 2

Tuesday Sept 3.

Wednesday Sept 4 At Pittsfield at court The weather clear, beautiful and mild; cool enough to make fire very desirable in the morning

Thursday Sept 5 This evening we adjourned Court, and I expect to take the stage for Quincy in the morning before day

I have been staying at my friend Watsons since I came down here, and he now refuses to let me pay my bill. I must not be forgetful of his hospitality

Friday Sept 6 This morning before day left Pittsfield in the stage for Quincy, where I arrived in time for supper

Saturday Sept 7. At home

Sunday Sept 8. At home till 6 O'clock P. M. when I took passage with Mr Lawrence, on the Dr Franklin, for Oquawka to attend the Court in Henderson County brought down Mrs Johnston Miss Bettie, Molly, Lettitia, Fanny and Miss Mary Babington

[*Leaf torn out.*]

Saturday Sept 14 At Knoxville with my friends

Sunday Sept 15 This morning left Knoxville in company with Mr Manning, and in his buggy, for Lewiston. Dined at

<sup>1</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, September 3, 1850, summarizes Browning's speech as maintaining the right of Congress to legislate on slavery in the territories and the District of Columbia, and attacking disunion.

Fairview, and then drove on to Hirah Saunders where we stayed all night

Monday Sept 16 This morning came into Lewiston where Court commenced to day, and where I now am at Myron Phelps

Tuesday Sept 17 To day at 1 Oclock I addressed the People of Fulton County on political subjects, making an argument against the extension of slavery—advocating the power of Congress over the subject in the district of Columbia and urging the duty of the government to use its power to prevent secession & disunion Mr Wead<sup>1</sup> was to reply to me, but when I was through he found nothing to object to in what I had urged, but endorsed it all, and then launched out into a tirade of party slang about democracy, federalism, banks, subtreasury, Galphin claims<sup>2</sup> &c of all of which I took no notice.

I *think* I made a favourable impression on the audience<sup>3</sup>

Wednesday Sept 18

Thursday Sept 19

Friday Sept 20

Saturday Sept 21

Sunday Sept 22

Monday Sept 23 At Lewistown

Tuesday Sept 24 Late this afternoon I went to Centreville to address the people at night, having made the engagement several days before. There was a much larger meeting than I expected to see, and I talked to them for something more than an hour.

Mr. Powell<sup>4</sup> of Peoria, candidate for the Senate went with me, and addressed the people after I had concluded

<sup>1</sup>Hezekiah M. Wead, 1810-1876. Came to Lewistown, Illinois, 1840; circuit judge, 1852-1855; 1855-1861 practiced law at Peoria; Democrat.

<sup>2</sup>Galphin claims: refers to the charge brought against the Whigs that Secretary of War George W. Crawford was previously interested in a claim he had settled.

<sup>3</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, October 8, 1850, clipped the *Fulton Republican* giving about the above impressions of the debate.

<sup>4</sup>Elihu N. Powell. Commissioned circuit judge in 1856.

Wednesday Sept 25 This morning I returned to Lewistown before breakfast to be here in time for court.

Thursday 26 To day I had an appointment to speak at Vermont made under the expectation that Court would have adjourned, but we were not through with business. I had several cases coming on for trial & could not leave

The disappointment was great to me as Vermont was one of the places I was anxious to visit

Mr Powell went, and I wrote to Thomas Harner Esqr explaining why I was not there \*Court adjourned today

Friday 27 I intended to have gone to Astoria today where I had an appointment to speak, but was prevented by the heavy rain of last night. Remained in Lewistown & wrote to S. P. Cummings, Wm Kernes and Tom Duncan

Saturday Sept 28 This morning, in company with Mr Powell, left Lewistown and came up to Canton. Stopped at Clements Hotel. At 2 o'clock P. M. addressed quite a large assemblage of the voters for nearly two hours, and I have reason to believe that in this district I will get a large vote. The whigs are greatly warmed up, and I have confident assurances of the free soil vote, besides some democrats

Sunday 29 Remained in Canton, and attended the Congregational Church

Monday 30 Sept To day in company with Mr Powell came to Farmington, where I remained till night, and addressed quite a large Audience

Tuesday Oct 1 After breakfast we left Farmington & proceeded to Peoria where we arrived for dinner. At night addressed a very large meeting at the Court-house

Wednesday Oct 2. Addressed a meeting at Chillicothe at 2 P. M., and at night another at Reuben Hamlin's in Northampton.

Thursday Oct 3. 1850 At 2 P M to day met the people at Princeville, and at night at Kickapoo. At this last place the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Giddings of the methodist church opened his church to me to speak in, and treated me in all respects with great courtesy and kindness.

Friday Oct 4 To day at 2 P. M. addressed a large meeting<sup>5</sup> at Brimfield. The meetings generally which I have thus far had have been much better attended than I expected. The most profound and respectful attention has been given me, and men of all parties seemed pleased with my views upon public matters. Powell, Riggs & McCoy accompanied me in my tour through this County

Saturday Oct 5 After dinner I took passage in the stage for<sup>6</sup> Knoxville where I arrived before night, and stopped at my friend Johnstons

Sunday Oct 6 This afternoon Mr Johnston and myself rode<sup>7</sup> over to Galesburg, and brought Bettie down to Knoxville

Monday Oct 7 This morning I went with Bettie & Miss<sup>8</sup> Mary Babington over to Galesburg and returned in time for Court

Tuesday 8

<sup>9</sup>  
Wednesday 9

<sup>10</sup>  
Thursday 10

<sup>11</sup>

Friday 11 At Knoxville attending Court. Adjourned in the<sup>12</sup> afternoon. The girls all came home this evening, and the family once more all together

Saturday 12 At Mr Johnstons with all the family

Sunday 13 Oct This morning Mr Johnston took a two horse buggy and brought me to Monmouth where we arrived for dinner—In the evening two Mr Lawrences reached here from Quincy

\*Monday Oct 14 At Monmouth attending court. Mr Sweet<sup>1</sup> whig candidate for Congress addressed the people to

<sup>1</sup>Martin Sweet, Whig candidate for Congress in the Galena district 1844, 1850.

day at noon, and again at Candle light. Is a man of pretty fair talents, but better powers of declamation than of argument

Tuesday Oct 15

Wednesday Oct 16 At Monmouth at Court

Thursday Oct 17 At Monmouth. To day Col Baker<sup>1</sup> arrived, and addressed the people at night. It was with great difficulty I could prevent him from assailing both President Filmore & Mr Sweet the whig candidate for Congress. He is very bitter in his feelings towards them both, and thinks unless the whig party assist in revenging what he supposes to be his personal wrongs they will be split into pieces

Friday Oct 18 At Monmouth

Saturday Oct 19 At 2 P M left Monmouth in company with the two Mr Lawrences for Quincy. On the prairie N. of Macomb horses got away from Mr Lawrence who was driving, he having jumped out, and took a run on the prairie, with Charles B & I in carriage. I managed to get over the front of the carriage & regain the line which had fallen & stopped, them. \*About 8 O'clock reached Macomb where we stayed all night

Sunday Oct 20 Left Macomb Early in the morning and reached Quincy 8 O'clock at night.

Monday Oct 21 At Quincy attending Court

Tuesday Oct 22 At Quincy. At candle light of this day addressed the people at the Court House. A very large meeting and made the poorest speech I have made during the canvass<sup>2</sup>

\*Wednesday Oct 23. At 3 P. M. left Quincy in company with Dr Singleton & in his buggy, behind his mare fashion, for which he had refused \$750 for Marceline, where I have an appointment to speak at night. Stopped with friend Jenkins and spent

<sup>1</sup>Edward D. Baker, 1811-1861. Whig politician; elected to Congress 1844, 1848; served as a colonel of Illinois volunteers in the Mexican War. Removed to Oregon, elected to the Senate as a Republican in 1860. Killed at Balls Bluff October 21, 1861. He was a stormy petrel of the Whig party in Illinois.

<sup>2</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, October 29, 1850, summarizes Browning's speech at Quincy as opposing the Pearce bill for a payment to Texas, the extension of slavery over free soil, and the fugitive slave act as denying trial by jury and habeas corpus, and favoring the sale of public lands to actual settlers at cost of selling only.



the night with him. At Candle light addressed the citizens—had a full house—more than I expected think I made a good impression.

Thursday Oct 24 Breakfasted at Jenkins & then drove to Columbus where I addressed a very good meeting at 2 P. M. After concluding my speech we came on to Clayton, and put up at Blacks—and at 7 O'clock in the evening addressed a large and crowded meeting of the citizens of the neighbourhood

Friday Oct 25 Breakfasted in Clayton early, and drove to Mt. Sterling, arrived at Dr Singletons at 8½ O'clock. After dinner addressed the people at the Court House.

My friends had been afraid that my free soil views would offend some of the whigs of this county, and afford capital to the democrats to operate against me, and I think they had a little rather I had not made an appointment to speak here. But after I had concluded an address of two hours, in which I maintained the same ground I had elsewhere both whigs & democrats expressed their concurrence in all I had said, their approval of all sentiments and opinions I had advanced.

Stayed all night at Singletons

Saturday Oct 26 Got a boy to take me to Rushville, where at 2 P M I spoke to a very large crowd of the citizens for 2½ hours, and have reason to believe that my friends were entirely satisfied.

After concluding I got Henry Lambert to take me to Frederick to await a steamboat for Hardin in Calhoun County. At 1 O'clock at night got aboard of steamer Connecticut

Sunday Oct 27 All this day on the River, boat a good part of the time on sand bars—and did not reach Hardin till 2½ O'clock in the morning.

Monday Oct 28 Court in session at Hardin, and quite a crowd of people in. Met Col Richardson<sup>1</sup> here the only time

<sup>1</sup>William A. Richardson, 1811-1875. Democratic politician; served in the Mexican War; served in Congress 1847-1856, 1861-1863 from the Quincy district, assisting Douglas in passing the Kansas-Nebraska Act; elected by the Illinois legislature to fill out Douglas' term as senator, replacing Browning, who by Yates's appointment had served two years of it.

I have seen him during the canvass—After dinner we addressed the people—I led off in a speech of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour. He followed for one hour, and I concluded in 15 minutes. He stated among other things, that Mr Polk was the only democrat who had ever opposed appropriations for River and harbor improvements<sup>1</sup>. After speaking he started on his return to Quincy—I stayed all night

Tuesday Oct 29 To day Clarence Hamilton brot me to Jerseyville where I had an appointment to speak. We did arrive till 4 P. M.—They had not heard of my coming, and I therefore agreed to remain tomorrow and speak at 1 O'clock

\*Wednesday Oct 30 After dinner addressed a very respectable congregation of the People

Thursday Oct 31 After breakfast this morning Col Knapp took me in his carriage to Carlinville, 35 miles distant. We arrived about 2 P. M. and after getting dinner I addressed the people. A good turnout

Friday Nov 1 Dr Foster brought me to day from Carlinville, Macoupin County, to Greenfield in Greene County, where there was a very large meeting which I addressed. After I had concluded <sup>for Carrolton</sup> I started, at 5 O'clock in a two horse buggy in company with Messrs Bowman, Morrow and Graves candidates for a clerkship in this County. Three miles from Carrolton and after dark, our buggy broke down, and we had to walk to Town, where we arrived after 8 O'clock—I stopped at Mr Bowmans Hotel.

\*Saturday Nov 2 After dinner addressed a large meeting in the Court House at Carrolton. Charles Hodges Esqr then took me in his carriage & brought me to White Hall where I spoke at night in a church, to a large assembly.

Sunday Nov 3 After breakfast started in a two horse buggy with Mr Dennis for Montezuma in Pike County—arrived there to dinner and stopped at Capt Wm Pegrams, where I remained till Monday

<sup>1</sup>The policy of the Democratic party against internal improvements at federal expense was a serious handicap in the river districts.

\*Monday Nov 4 Went in a waggon with Mr Douglass to Milton, and addressed the people—Then went with Mr Hatch<sup>1</sup> to Griggsville and made another speech at night—

Tuesday Nov 5 Raining heavily. At nine O'clock left Griggsville in an open two horse buggy with Elijah Dickerson, turned cold—wind from N W—raining all day—came under the lash. Took dinner at Liberty—made a speech, and came on home where I arrived in time to vote—voted for Richardson balance whig ticket<sup>2</sup>

Wednesday Nov 6 At home

Thursday Nov 7 At 8½ O'clock A. M. left on Steamer Fleetwood, Capt Dean, for St. Louis, on my way to Kentucky—At night broke a wheel, and were detained 6 hours mending it.

Friday Nov 8 Reached St. Louis about 10 A. M. Saladin<sup>9</sup> left for Louisville soon after our arrival, but was waiting for Miss Patterson & could not go on her. Stevenson steamer left in the evening and I likewise missed her. Stayed all night at Planters

Saturday Nov 9 Miss Patterson not yet arrived Schuylkill goes to day, and I have taken my passage on her, as there will be no other opportunity till Monday, and I cannot wait till that time.

At 2 P M Miss Patterson arrived, came aboard, and we got under way at 3 P. M. After running an hour the boat took a shear on the Pilot and ran hard and high on a rocky beach, but did no material injury—an hour was consumed in getting off when we proceeded on our way till near night, and brought up on a sand bar, some distance above St. Genevieve. Got off from this some time during the night & tied up till day<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ozias M. Hatch, 1814-1893. Secretary of state, 1856-1864.

<sup>2</sup>Browning was defeated 8,099 to 7,197.

<sup>3</sup>The volume ends at this point. Inside the cover opposite is written in pencil:

Ext Cinchonae  
Ext Gentiane  
Ext Anthemis Nobilis  
ā ā. 3 i j  
Ferri Sulphatis ② i j

The diary proceeds with November 10 on the thirteenth page from the front, the other pages being taken up with quotations.

Sunday Nov 10 1850 At daylight again started on our way. Reached St Genevieve about 9 O'clock, where we took on board 300 bbls sand for glass works at Wheeling and Pittsburg and continued on down the River till night. The night was very foggy, and we lay by at a wood yard some distance above Cape Gerideau till Monday morning.

Monday Nov 11 Proceeded on our way until 10 A M, when we ran hard and fast on a sand bar, somewhere between the Cape & Cairo, where we now are, and have been for an hour, with no apparent prospect of getting off Broke all our spars—had to send a shore and cut some, and float them aboard. With their assistance got off bar at 9 at night & floated down a few hundred yards and lay to till morning

Tuesday Nov 12 In consequence of heavy fog could not leave this morning until 9 O'clock after having been detained 23 hours. At 9 got under way, and without further accident or detention reached Cairo, where we arrived at 11 A. M. Hon Jno A McClernand<sup>1</sup> came aboard here—Ohio in good stage, and at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 12 we commenced our ascent A drunken pilot belonging ~~to~~ to some other boat also came aboard here, who during the afternoon got into a quarrel with the steward & drew a pistol, which went off prematurely in his hand, and the ball from which missed McClernand only by about an inch—the powder was embedded in his face, and had he been struck he must, inevitably have been killed. The Capt put him ashore

\*Continued our run until 11 at night when the fog became so dense we could proceed no further, so we tied up opposite Smithland just below the dam to await the dawning of another morning

Wednesday Nov 13. Fog very heavy—now  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 in the morning, and we have not yet moved. Started at 10 O'clock, and continued on our way without further hindrance until 2 O'clock in the morning when the fog came on, and we had again to lie by.

<sup>1</sup>John A. McClernand, 1812-1900. Democrat; 1843-1851, 1859-1861, served in Congress; served as a major general in the Civil War. As leader of his party in southern Illinois he ousted Zadoc Casey in 1843.

Thursday Nov 14. Got off this morning at 7 O'clock, and had no further delays during the trip.

Friday Nov 15 At dark reached the foot of the canal. Took a hack and came up to Louisville. Delivered Miss Patterson at Mr Guthries—then drove to Galt House. Got supper—got shaved—took passage in tomorrow mornings stage for Lexington—full inside—had to take an outside seat. Start at 4 O'clock. Anything but a comfortable prospect before me. Will go to bed, and try and sleep

Saturday Nov 16 At 4 in the morning started for Frankfort. Coach full inside, and 5 on top of whom I was one. Cold disagreeable morning—snowing—when we stopped for breakfast I was fortunate enough to get an inside seat—reached Frankfort to dinner. At 2½ p. m. took the cars for Lexington. Among the passengers to day was Col Goodloe<sup>1</sup> & his wife, with whom I was pleased to meet, and Mr Ryland of St Louis, on his way to Lexington to marry Miss Warfield. At Midway professor Ruter<sup>2</sup> of Transylvania came into the cars. We had not met for 20 years. He recognized me at once—took me cordially by the hand—called me by name, & expressed great gratification at meeting me. He had changed much since we last met, and I did not know him, but was not less gratified on that account at meeting him.

Met Orville OB.<sup>3</sup> at rail road depot in Lexington with carriage for me, and came out at once to Capt O'Bannon's

Sunday Nov 17

Monday Nov 18

Tuesday Nov 19

Wednesday Nov 20

Thursday Nov 21

29

At Capt OBannon's

<sup>1</sup>Perhaps John K. Goodloe, member of the Kentucky legislature, 1855-1861, from Woodford County.

<sup>2</sup>The Reverend Martin Ruter, president of Allegheny College, 1833-1837.

<sup>3</sup>Orville O'Bannon. Probably the son of Elijah O'Bannon, born in 1838.



To day I went to Town & called on Mrs Jouett, Mrs Menafée, and Mrs Dr Smith, formerly Sarah Warfield, whom I had not seen for about 15 years—not since she was married, and she now has a grown daughter. Mrs Simpson & Mrs Brassfield came down today from Winchester

Friday Nov 22 We intended to day to leave the Capt's and go into Lexington preparatory to a start tomorrow, but it has rained all day and we are still here

\*Saturday Nov 23 This morning went to Lexington—dined at Brother Marcus, and at 2½ P M took the cars for Frankfort where we arrived about 5 and took lodgings at the Weisecer House

Sunday Nov 24 At Frankfort. To day in conversation with Hon George A. Caldwell<sup>1</sup> upon the subject of the fugitive slave bill, he asked me what was the sentiment in Illinois in relation thereto. I answered whilst it was the law we would obey it. That we thought the slave states entitled, under the constitution to a fugitive slave bill, but we did not like this, and would seek its modification. That its exparte character did not comport with our ideas of justice, and we thought it should be amended.

He instantly replied, with much warmth, "we will dissolve the Union before we will submit to it, and then proceeded to say that the action under the law for the extradition of fugitives from justice was exparte, and so it should be in the case of slaves. I suggested to him that the cases were not parallel. That fugitives from justice were demanded by the Gov of one State of the Gov of another, and delivered into the hands of an agent appointed for the purpose, to be taken under the guarantee of the law to a certain and specified place, (and could be taken no where else) where he was entitled to, and would receive a fair trial.

The slave on the contrary is delivered to the claimant to be taken anywhere, and disposed of in any manner such claimant

<sup>1</sup>George A. Caldwell, died 1866. Representative from Kentucky in 28th and 31st congresses as a Democrat; member of Philadelphia Union Convention, 1866.

may choose, and so far from a trial being anywhere secured it was absolutely precluded. Very coolly and calmly I put many cases where the greatest injustice would arise out of the exparte nature of proceeding

He acknowledged the force of the suggestions, and, without any indication of passion said the law probably ought to be amended, and he would be willing to aid in modifying it so as to require that the negro should be delivered into the custody of a law officer to be taken to the place from he was alleged to have fled, and a trial there secured before he was surrendered to the Claimant &c

Monday Nov 25 After dinner left Frankfort in a Hack for Louisville Reached Shelbyville about dark and stayed all night

Tuesday Nov 26 Raining—Came on to Louisville to dinner, and stopped at Galt House

Wednesday Nov 27 Rained heavily all night, and till 11 Oclock this morning. Took hack and went down to Portland, and took passage on Steamer Lady Franklin for St Louis Met on board Mr Ed Dudley & Lady of Fayette, & Mr & Mrs and Miss Boyd of Carrollton.

Got under way at 3 P. M continued to rain heavily again till sometime in the night

Thursday Nov 28 Making good headway in Ohio River

Friday Nov 29 About 10 A M entered Mississippi River. Before night passed Cape Jerideau. Town mostly in ruins—from appearances 50 or more houses unroofed & blown down by hurricane Wednesday night. Said to be 5 persons killed, & many others wounded Steamer Savanah on her way to N. O. lying there a wreck. Chimneys blown down—Cabin torn away &c.

Saturday Nov 30 At 10½ this morning reached St. Louis, and came aboard Kate Kearney for home

Mrs Kennedy & Mrs Barret<sup>1</sup> came down & dined with us—After dinner went to see Greek Slave.<sup>2</sup> Exquisite thing. I had

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Eliza P. Barret, daughter of James Simpson of Kentucky. She died July 28, 1852.

<sup>2</sup>Hiram Powers' famous nude statue.

seen it before in N. Y. Emotion expressed in face wonderful  
Position Stands on left foot—right hand resting on the top of  
a pillar. The whole mounted on pedestal

\*Left St Louis at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 O'clock.

Sunday Decr 1 Reached home at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  P. M.

\*Monday Decr 2

Tuesday Decr 3

Wednesday Decr 4

Thursday Decr 5 At home

Friday Decr 6 At 9 O'clock this morning Mr Bushnell,<sup>1</sup>  
Mr Wheat<sup>2</sup> & myself started for Springfield in one of Pinkhams  
carriages, intending to reach Naples in time for the cars tomor-  
row. Weather cold, and roads very rough. Dined at Liberty,  
and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Kingston, at Millers Blacksmith shop  
broke down. we walked on to Kingston—reached there at  
dark, and stopped with old man high. Driver had carriage  
mended, and got in about 8 O'clock

Night dark, cold, and stormy.

Saturday Decr 7 Snow fell in the night to the depth of  
about 3 inches, and morning very cold—Afraid to trust carriage  
Sent it back, and hired Mr. Pinney, an Englishman, to take us  
on in a common open two horse wagon. Reached the Illinois  
River at 1 O'clock, and whilst we stood on the west bank, saw  
cars depart for Springfield, leaving us under the necessity of  
remaining in Naples till 1 o'clock Monday Stopped at Phillips  
tavern Met Mr Preston Surveyor Genl of Oregon. Solicited  
appointment for Charles Rowland. Can get one if he is a prac-  
tical surveyor, but this I could not answer. Will ascertain &  
write him. Ice running thick in River, but steamer Connecticut

<sup>1</sup>Nehemiah Bushnell, 1813-1873. Came to Quincy, 1837; Browning's  
law partner till his death; at one time president of the Northern Cross  
Railroad.

<sup>2</sup>Probably Almeron Wheat, a Quincy lawyer elected to the legislature  
in 1842; Alexander E. Wheat's legal career was probably just beginning,  
but no dates are available.

came down & Prairie State up in the night. Judge Treat<sup>1</sup> arrived, on his way from St Louis.

Sunday Decr 8 At Naples. Dull business—read Charles Lamb

Monday Decr 9 In afternoon came from Naples to Springfield in rail road Cars. Took lodgings at Mrs Enos.<sup>2</sup> Judge Davis<sup>3</sup> & R S Blackwell our room mates

Clients waiting for us—been telegraphing

Tuesday Decr 10 This morning commenced the trial of Barnes in the U S court for robbing mail Williams,<sup>4</sup> Blackwell and Edwards prosecuting—Ferguson and I defending

Wednesday Decr 11 Continued Barnes trial & closed the evidence

Thursday Decr 12 Continued Barnes trial. All this day occupied by speeches from Mr Blackwell for prosecution, and by Ferguson for defense.

Friday Decr 13 This morning I commenced my argument to the jury for the prisoner. Spoke three hours, and adjourned for dinner. After dinner resumed and spoke three hours more—Concluded & adjourned for supper.

After supper Mr Williams began the concluding argument for the prosecution. Spoke an hour &  $\frac{3}{4}$  and adjourned till morning.

<sup>1</sup>Samuel H. Treat, 1811-1887. Justice of Illinois Supreme Court, 1841-1855; United States district judge, 1855-1887.

<sup>2</sup>Probably widow of Pascal P. Enos, Sr., one of the pioneers of Springfield.

<sup>3</sup>David Davis of Bloomington, 1815-1886. Circuit judge, 1848-1861; justice of Supreme Court, 1862-1877; United States senator from Illinois, 1877-1885; one of Lincoln's most intimate friends. A leader of the Bloomington group in the Republican party who are said to have thwarted Browning's aspirations to become justice of the Supreme Court in 1862.

<sup>4</sup>Probably Archibald Williams, 1801-1863. Came to Quincy, 1829; served in General Assembly, 1832-1840; United States district attorney, 1849-1853; 1854, defeated for Congress; United States district judge for Kansas, 1861; Whig and Republican politician; Browning's competitor in the western circuit. As a lawyer, described as reasoning rather than eloquent; apparently eccentric in appearance.

Saturday Decr 14 Mr Williams resumed his argument, and concluded in 1¾ hours. Court charged jury, and sent them out at 12 O'clock. At 9 at night not having agreed they were discharged—8 for acquittal four for conviction Prisoner recognized for appearance at next term

\*Sunday Decr 15 Attended church & heard Dr Smith preach

Monday Decr 16 Dined at Jno Cooks<sup>1</sup> in company with Judge Drummond,<sup>2</sup> B. Bond,<sup>3</sup> Wm Pope, N Edwards<sup>4</sup> & R S Blackwell Esqrs

Tuesday Decr 17 Making briefs

Wednesday Decr 18

17

Thursday Decr 19

18

Friday Decr 20

19

Saturday Decr 21 Engaged in the preparation of cases for argument

Sunday Decr 22 Attended church & heard Dr Smith preach in the morning. In the afternoon wrote to Mrs Browning, and spent the balance of the day reading & in conversation with friends

Monday Decr 23

Tuesday Decr 24

Preparing briefs

<sup>1</sup>John Cook, 1825-1910. Son of Daniel P. Cook, sole Illinois congressman, 1819-1827; colonel of 7th Illinois Volunteers, 1861, rising to rank of brevet major general.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas Drummond, 1809-1890. United States district judge, 1869-1884.

<sup>3</sup>Benjamin Bond, 1807-1866. Son of Shadrach Bond, first governor of Illinois; Whig politician, later a Democrat; arrested for opposition to the war in 1862.

<sup>4</sup>Ninian Wirt Edwards, 1809-1889, son of Ninian Edwards, territorial governor of Illinois; married Elizabeth, sister of Mary Todd, later Mrs. Abraham Lincoln; changed from Whig to Democrat, 1851; 1854-1857, state superintendent of public instruction, mainly responsible for the establishment of the state school system; 1861-1865, captain in the commissary corps; author of a history of Illinois largely based on his father's papers.



Wednesday Decr 25 No festivities of any kind in this dull Town. Spent the morning in the law Library at work—dined at my boarding house. In the afternoon wrote to Mrs Browning &c & in the evening went to Wm Popes to supper

Thursday Decr 26 This morning the argument of the case of Smith Assignee &c vs Dunlap Commenced in the Supreme Court, and continued through

Friday Decr 27 and concluded at noon

Saturday Decr 28

Sunday Decr 29 Snow fell yesterday to the depth of several inches.

Did not go to church to day—wrote to Mrs Browning

Monday Decr 30 The case of Stout vs Whitney was argued today in Supreme Court by Edmonds for Plaintiff & Williams & myself for Deft in error

Tuesday Decr 31 Nothing particular<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Three blank pages follow this entry; then follows "Traveling Expenses in the Summer of 1850."

## 1852

Thursday Jany 1 1852<sup>1</sup> The U S Court did not sit today, and I have appropriated the time to the preparation of a lecture to be delivered at Jacksonville next week, and to writing a letter to Mrs Browning

Weather mild

Friday 2. This morning the argument in the case of Cofield vs Potter<sup>2</sup> was resumed in the U S Court by Mr Bushnell.

He concluded at 12 O'clock and the balance of the day until 10 O'clock at night was occupied by Mr Williams.

The day has been bright & pleasant

Saturday Jany 3 1852 This morning I commenced my argument in the case of Cofield vs Potter. Spoke from 9 till 1 when the Court adjourned till Monday morning.

Took supper at W<sup>m</sup> Popes

Sunday 4 Attended 3<sup>rd</sup> Pres Church in the morning & at night & heard Mr Dodge.<sup>3</sup> Day warm & raining a little

Monday 5 This morning resumed my argument in the case of Cofield vs Potter, & concluded at 5 P. M.

In the night about an inch of snow fell. To day everything is frozen & quite cold

Tuesday Jany 6 1852. To day we commenced, in the Federal court, the trial of the case of Rowley vs Berrian

Wednesday 7 To day we have argued the case of Olmstead vs Berrian in the U S Court.

Weather cold, cloudy and threatening snow.

<sup>1</sup>The year 1852 is in a volume bound plainly in law-calf-colored leather, with 252 unnumbered pages, size 3¾ by 5¾ inches, simple account ruling in red almost faded. Entries begin on page 7 and end on page 205 except for two memoranda on pages 250-251.

<sup>2</sup>See entry for January 12, *post*, 34, for Cofield vs. Potter.

<sup>3</sup>The Reverend Richard V. Dodge, who married Sarah, daughter of N. H. Ridgely.

Thursday 8 To day have tried the case of Stow vs McCully in U S Court.

Has been snowing at intervals all day & pretty cold.

Friday Jany 9 1852 This morning I went down in the cars to Jacksonville

Stopped at Judge Browns.<sup>1</sup>

\*In the afternoon called on Mrs Duncan<sup>2</sup> & family, and at night lectured in the Congregational Church, before a Library association upon "The dignity of labour.

Saturday 10 Mrs Brown & self called on Mrs Clay

Dined at Judge Browns.

After dinner returned by rail road to Springfield, and spent the evening at Ridgely's<sup>3</sup> with Drummond, Pope, Bushnell & Lawrence

\*Sunday 11 Very cold. Attended Mr Dodge's church in the morning, and meeting of Bible Society at Dr Smith's church in evening

Monday 12 This morning Judge Drummond delivered his opinion in the case of Cofield vs Potter. He decided

1. That the limitation law of 1839 was constitutional<sup>4</sup>
2. That a tax deed made by the County Clerk under the law of 1833, was prima facie evidence of title, and was claim and color of title in the meaning of the first section of the law of 1839
3. That being claim & color of title it would be protected by the first section of said act if the Deft claiming under the tax deed had had actual possession of the land for 7 years before the commencement of the suit, and had paid all taxes assessed thereon for the same time, and that protection under the Statute would not be defeated by proof that the tax deed was void.
4. That the Defendant claiming under a title which had been decided by the Courts of the State to be prima facie a good title,

<sup>1</sup>Judge William Brown, Jacksonville. Died 1871.

<sup>2</sup>Widow of Governor Joseph Duncan, 1794-1844.

<sup>3</sup>Probably Nicholas H. Ridgely, 1800-1888. A Springfield banker and financier.

<sup>4</sup>For the Limitation Law of 1839 see *post*, 282-283.

and having paid the value of the land upon his purchase of it, would be presumed to have done so in good faith

We then proceeded with the case but did not complete. Some difficulty having arisen about the payment of taxes, and on Tuesday morning it was agreed to continue the case.

Tuesday Jan'y 13 1852 To day we commenced, in the U S Court, the trial of the case of Turner vs Williams et als

Weather continues bitter cold

\*Wednesday Jan'y 14 Progressing with trial of Turner vs Williams.

Weather mild & thawing

Thursday 15 Concluded the argument in case of Turner vs Williams, & commenced trial of Mattison vs Wright.<sup>1</sup>

\*Mild & thawing through the day After supper called on Mrs Johnson

\*Friday Jan'y 16, 1852 Continued trial of the case of Mattison vs Wright

Day mild & thawing

Saturday 17 Concluded argument in case of Mattison vs Wright

Day very cold, Mr Lawrence left here this morning for home

Sunday 18 Very cold. Attended Mr Dodge's church in morning.

In afternoon was engaged in reading, & writing some letters.

Monday 19 This morning thermometers ranged from 19 to 23 degrees below zero. The coldest morning of the season.

Tried in U S Court to day cases of Hobbs vs Frazer-Turner vs Starr, and Northup vs Aniel & others.

At night delivered a lecture in 3<sup>rd</sup> Presbyterian church for the benefit of the poor. After the lecture went to Mr Lincoln's to supper.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Wright vs. Mattison. This case finally went to the Supreme Court of the United States. It was a leading one on the question of Illinois tax titles. See diary entries for January 13, 1853, and December 6, 1855, *post*, 91, 211.

<sup>2</sup>The first mention of Lincoln.

Tuesday 20 Moderating some. Argued in Supreme Court Pottle vs McWorter,<sup>1</sup> Stephens vs People<sup>2</sup> & commenced Gales & Seaton vs Anderson.<sup>3</sup> Dined with Rev Mr Dodge.

Wednesday 21 Jany 1852 Weather continues bitter cold. Concluded argument of the case of Gales & Seaton vs Anderson in Supreme Court

Spent the evening at Ridgley's

Thursday 22 Tried the case of Moore vs Brown<sup>4</sup> & others in U S Court.

Still intensely cold

Friday 23 Moderated very much. Day bright & mild

At work in Library

Saturday—Jany 24 1852 A very bright, beautiful & mild day.

Closed up our business at Springfield, and expect to start home Monday morning

Spent the evening at Mr Ridgley's

Sunday 25. Raining this morning Attended Mr Dodges church

Raining gently most of the day.

\*Monday 26 At 8 O'clock this morning Mr Bushnell & myself left Springfield in the cars for home. Reached Naples to dinner, and at 2 P M took the stage for Quincy. Got supper at New Salem at 7 P. M. and reached home just after day

†Weather mild & beautiful†

Tuesday 27. Arrived at home this morning just after day

\*Clear, warm & thawing

\*Wednesday 28 At work in office Beautiful, spring like weather

Thursday 29 At work in office Weather delicious

<sup>1</sup>Pottle vs. McWorter, 13 *Illinois*, 454. A case before the Illinois Supreme Court concerning promissory notes.

<sup>2</sup>Simeon Stephens Appellant vs. The People, Appellees, 13 *Illinois*, 131. A case of assault and battery.

<sup>3</sup>Gales et al. vs. Anderson et al., 13 *Illinois*, 413. A case relating to ferry privileges on the Mississippi River.

<sup>4</sup>This case of Moore vs. Brown, in which Browning was counsel, does not appear in the published reports.



Friday, Jan'y 30 1852 At work in office. Day warm & cloudy. Commenced raining just after dinner & continued through afternoon & night

Saturday 31 At work in office. Cloudy & cold. Spitting snow a little, and freezing a little

Sunday Feby 1 1852 Attended Mr Marks<sup>1</sup> church in morning & at night

Day cloudy, & cold, tho thawing

Monday 2 At work in office Fine day

Tuesday 3. Beautiful weather At work in office Mrs B & self took tea at C B Church's

Wednesday 4 At work in office Weather warm & bright

Thursday Feby 5 1852 At work in office Raining steadily all day Kossuth meeting at night. Did not attend

Friday 6 Clear beautiful day, but a little cold. At work in office. Spent evening at Henry Allen's<sup>2</sup> with Mrs Browning.

Saturday 7 At work in office Pleasant weather

Sunday Feby 8 1852 Pleasant day. Attended Church morning & evening

Two steam boats up to day. Bon Accord & Martha First since December.

Monday 9 At work in office. Weather mild, river open & boats running

Tuesday 10 At work in office. Cloudy and turning cold. Small party of young persons at my house to supper.

office

Wednesday Feby 11 1852 At work in office. A raw and gusty day

Thursday 12 At work in office

Friday 13 At work in office. Weather pleasant. Took tea & spent the evening at Judge Lotts<sup>3</sup> with Mrs Browning, Miss Simpson and other friends

<sup>1</sup>Marks was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Quincy, 1840-1855.

<sup>2</sup>Henry Allen was a leading Quincy grocer, miller, etc.

<sup>3</sup>Peter Lott. Commissioned circuit judge, 1839; elected to General Assembly, 1844; Democrat.

Saturday 14 Mild pleasant day. At work in office

Sunday Feby 15 1852 Attended church morning, & at night.  
Weather pleasant

Monday 16 At work in office. weather pleasant

Tuesday 17 At 9 O'clock this morning in company with Calvin A Warren<sup>1</sup> & Danl. H Solomon, I started for Mt. Sterling, in one of Pinkham's carriages, and black George for a driver. Warren & myself go to Brown County to make rail road speeches on behalf of N. C. Rail road.<sup>2</sup> Solomon is on his way to Lewiston to visit his friends.

Dined at Columbus & reached Singletons at Mt. Sterling at 7 O'clock at night. Day quite cold, but dry fine winter weather.

\*Wednesday Feby 18 1852 At two O'clock this afternoon Mr Warren & myself addressed the people at the Court house in favour of subscriptions of stock to the rail road. There were probably two hundred persons present, and I have no doubt an impression highly favourable to the work was produced upon them, but from their outward appearance I should not suppose many of them in a situation to subscribe for stock, and pay the calls.

I suggested, among other things that the county should take at least \$50,000, and a resolution was offered and unanimously adopted requesting the county court to submit the proposition to the people

Thursday Feby 19 1852 After breakfast this morning we left Dr Singleton's and drove down to Versailles, where after dinner, we addressed quite a good audience in favour of the rail road.

<sup>1</sup>Calvin A. Warren, 1807-1881. Democrat; Quincy lawyer; interested in the Northern Cross Railroad.

<sup>2</sup>The Northern Cross Railroad was originally a part of the internal improvement scheme of 1837, running eastward from Quincy by Meredosia, Jacksonville and Springfield. Only the part from Springfield to Meredosia had been completed. The project was revived in 1849 by private capital with subscriptions from other counties. The project developed a line from Quincy to Galesburg which became a part of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy in 1864. Of Browning's associates, Bushnell, Almeron Wheat, C. B. Lawrence, Jonas, Richardson, Lorenzo Bull, Rogers and Warren, were interested in the enterprise. *Quincy Whig*, October 30, 1849, March 25, 1851, July 30, 1853.

Some subscriptions of stock were made, and a resolution unanimously adopted, recommending the County Court to have a vote taken on the proposition to subscribe \$50,000

We returned to Mt Sterling with Singleton and stopped again at his house.

\*Friday Feby 20 1852 A meeting was appointed for to-day 6 or 8 miles S W of Mt Sterling at the Prairie school house After breakfast Singleton drove out with us, but no person attended. We saw two or three men who lived near by, and they seemed to be rather hostile to the work.

We parted with Singleton—he returned home, and we came on to Clayton to dinner. One of our horses was sick, so that we could not travel in the afternoon. Consequently we remained in Clayton, at old man Black's till Saturday morning

Saturday Feby 21 1852 Our sick horse having recovered, we left Clayton after breakfast and made the best of our way home. About 2 P. M. reached the Mound at Frank Moores, and found several hundred persons assembled on the prairie to witness a race between a sorrel mare & black horse. Stopped till the race was run, the mare winning with great ease, and then drove into town, where we arrived about 3 P. M.

Sunday 22 Attended Presbyterian church in the morning, and heard Dr Blatchford<sup>1</sup> preach. In the evening heard Mr Mears at same place.

Monday Feby 23 1852 At work in office

Tuesday 24 At work in office Took tea & spent evening at Dudleys

Wednesday 25 At work in office

Thursday 26 At work in office

Friday 27 At work in office \*For some days past the weather has been mild & pleasant, but occasionally cloudy, and threatening storm

<sup>1</sup>John Blatchford, 1799-1855. Born in Connecticut; educated at Union College and Princeton; Presbyterian and Congregational pastor in various charges; resided in Quincy after 1847.

Saturday Feby 28 1852 At work in office. Last night the weather changed to cold, and about day, or a little after, commenced snowing. Fell very fast for a short time, and ceased, but the cold was quite intense through the day. Every thing hard frozen, and ice formed, & commenced running in the river

Sunday Feby 29 Still very cold. Went to church in the morning. Mrs Gillman & Miss Dolly Lange dined with us, Miss De La Porte has been with us several days but left this morning. Just at night left home for Carthage to attend Hancock Court. Took passage of Kate Kearney Williams, Warren, Wheat, Wagley and George Rogers in company

Very cold night, and ice running heavily. So much so as very materially to retard the progress of the boat. Yesterday and to day are the coldest of the month, and, if it continues without change for two or three days more navigation must be suspended

Remained on board the boat all night.

Monday March 1 1852 About 6 O'clock this morning, on return of the boat from Keokuk, landed at Warsaw. Went to Mrs Wilson's and breakfasted with Wagley. At 9 started to Carthage in open two horse buggy of Hamiltons Harry Stephens, George Leech, Wagley, Payne, some other man & myself in, besides Hamilton, who was driving. Very cold indeed. Hard frozen, and as much bundling up necessary as in mid winter. Reached Carthage at 12 O clock. I stopped at Patterson's Hotel —Hamilton's old stand.

After dinner Court was opened & we commenced business.

Near night snow enough fell to about cover the ground. Continues to be very cold & cloudy

Tuesday March 2 Attending Court. Commenced the trial of People vs Hawley for assault & battery. Closed evidence before supper. After candle light argued by Stewart for prosecution and Warren for Deft & adjourned till tomorrow

Continues very cold

Wednesday March 3 1852 People vs Hawley argued by myself for Defendant, and Blackwell for prosecution. Occupied all the morning. Ladies in to hear us

Monday,  
March 1  
1852

Jury hung, and discharged without verdict after night Cold day, but moderated about night, and before 10 O'clock had thunder, lightning & rain

Thursday Mar 4 Raining most of the day & very disagreeable & muddy

Attending Court

Friday March 5 Cloudy, cold & disagreeable Attending Court

Saturday March 6 1852 Ground hard frozen this morning and day. Cold & cloudy, tho thawing

Mr John Pierpoint of Laharpe, a client of mine, who has a small case in Court, was yesterday attending Court, apparently, and, I believe, in fact, in perfect health.

He was a ruddy, stout young man. Went to bed well in a room adjoining mine. About 11 O clock he awoke suffering with hernia. Dr Giddings who slept in my room was called to him. Remained with him, some three hours but gave him no relief. This morning a consultation was held, and a surgical operation performed for the purpose of reducing the rupture. I saw him at noon. He died at 3 P. M.

\*Sunday March 7 1852 The day cloudy, muddy & disagreeable, but not cold. Kept my room reading & writing a letter to B. At night went across the street, to *meeting*, at Hamiltons new building, and heard a Mr Thompson, a baptist minister preach. Rather a *queer* man, but possessed of considerable talent, and made rather an interesting sermon. Subject, the employments of angels, too vast and mighty for any less mind than such as Robert Halls or Dr Chalmers

\*Monday March 8 Again attending Court. South wind blowing, quite warm, cloudy and threatening rain

\*Tuesday March 9 1852 Last night thunder storm & very heavy rain Today cloudy but warm. Just before sunset clouds dispersed & had clear, calm, beautiful evening

Engaged in trial of Indictmt against Jno Cox for assault & battery on Harry S Albright with intent to commit murder. Made my speech in defence after night, & Court adjourned about 10 O'clock



Wednes-  
day  
March 10  
1852

Wednesday, March 10 Warren concluded the argument in the case vs Cox on behalf of the prosecution Jury out about 10 minutes & returned with verdict of not guilty Commenced the trial of case of People vs Louis Warner for Larceny about 10 O'clock A. M. \*This is rather a peculiar case. Warner is a very gentlemanly man in his manners & preposing in his person & address. Resides at Warsaw—has for some years & was engaged in merchandize His wife is represented as a lady educated, interesting, and in every way estimable, and his children as of great promise. He is about 50 years of age. He went to California among others during the mania about its mineral wealth. When there, however, instead of mining he engaged in trade in copartnership with Jno. H. White a young lawyer from this place, Carthage. They did business in Sacramento, and had made some money. On the 1st January 1850, there was an extraordinary flood in Sacramento river. They were inundated & lost all they had. At dark they were well off—their house was dry & secure—at midnight the water was 4 ft deep in it—rushing like a torrent, and they were bankrupt.

Wednes-  
day  
March 10  
1852

Middle of February they borrowed \$2000 & recommenced business. White was in very bad health, & not able to give his attention to business. Warner conducted it, and White soon made an assignment of his interest in the concern to a third person & withdrew, and a few days thereafter died. He left nothing, and was buried by the charity of Warner & three other friends. After his death Warner continued in business for some time, was fortunate, & returned to his home in Warsaw with a considerable amount of money. Whites friend's here were dissatisfied, & asserted that he had been plundered after his death by Warner—White had a silver lever watch when he went to California which Warner brot back & sold, and in consequence of having made some contradictory statements as to how he came by the watch, Whites friends procured him to be Indicted for stealing it

The case has occupied all day, and was submitted to the jury just before midnight ~~night~~

Thursday March 11 1852 The jury in Warners case have not been able to agree. In the afternoon the Court advised a

nolle prosequi to be entered. It was then agreed by the parties that a majority verdict should be rendered, whereupon the jury came in with a verdict of "not guilty" signed by ten of their number, and the Defendant was discharged

Weather warm & rainy

Friday 12 At 2 P. M. left Carthage in 4 horse buggy with 8 other persons, for Warsaw, where we arrived at dark. Took supper at Ralston's hotel, and between 8 & 9 got on board packet Kate Kearney. She ran up to Keokuk, and lay there all night.

Warm rainy weather, and the roads very bad.

Saturday March 13 Reached home this morning about 10 O'clock. Has rained heavily most of the day, but now at night is clear, warm, and rather windy

Sunday March 14 Wind blew a gale all night. Bright day & pleasant Attended Church morning & evening.

Received letter from B Daffodils in bloom

Monday March 15 1852 Warren breakfasted with me this morning, and at 7 O'clock we started together in a two horse buggy of Pinkhams for Pittsfield to attend Court. Found the roads much better than we expected. Dined at Barry, & reached Pittsfield before sun down. Stopped at Hendricks tavern. Day sunny and pleasant.

Tuesday 16 This morning early rained very heavily, but not long Forenoon warm & cloudy. Toward night became quite cold Cloudy & wind blowing from N. W. Attending Court.

Wednesday March 17 1852 Very cold. Pitcher of water in my room frozen over pretty hard this morning. Whilst at breakfast the bowl of water in which I had washed froze over. Day clear.

At night addressed meeting at the Court house in behalf of an effort by the cadets of Temperance to form a library

Thursday March 18 Colder if anything than on yesterday. Frozen hard. Attending Court and trying causes

Friday March 19 Cold as ever. hard frozen Attending Court

Saturday March 20 1852 Continues very cold. Freezes quite hard at night, and thaws but little through the day. Today the wind has shifted from the N W to S E—the afternoon is cold, cloudy, spitting snow a little, and threatning a storm

I have so far disposed of my business in Court, that I expect to start home in the morning. The Court will continue next week, but as it is in session at Quincy also it is necessary for me to return there. It will depend some however upon the state of the weather, whether I go tomorrow

\*Sunday March 21 1852 At 8 O'clock this morning Warren & myself left Pittsfield for home—very cold—suffered more than any time during the winter Dined at Kinderhook and reached home about sundown River full of ice

Monday March 22 Attending Court at home weather moderating, but still cold.

Tuesday March 23 Attending Court. Henry Lane a lad of 11 or 12 years old indicted for larceny. Assigned by Court to defend him

Got him acquitted, and have promised to see that he is taken and put to a trade

Wednesday March 24 1852 Attending Court. Warm beautiful weather. To day I set out roses White Microphylla, Pink Celestial, Yellow Harrison, White Scotch and others sent me by Mr Buchanan also white & pink blackburys, and Valeriana. Also Larch from Stewarts

\*Thursday March 25 Attending Court. Day clear, beautiful & very warm M Fadon & Lady dined with us

Friday March 26 Attending Court. Turned cold last night & wind from N. E.

Set out in yard La Reine, Amie Vibert & Mrs Bosanquet. Also cherry tree that Dudley gave me

Saturday March 27 1852 Attending Court. Day bright & pleasant. Set dwarf apple, and Calicanthus

Sunday 28 Pleasant day. Attended Church morning & evening

Monday 29 Attending Court. Day very warm & pleasant.  
Set out Madam Laffay, Ophirie & Dr Marx  
Heavy thunder & rain at night. Daffodils in bloom

Tuesday 30 Attending Court. Cold, cloudy day—overcoats  
& fires necessary. Turned cold in the night

Wednesday March 31 1852 Attending Court.

Quite cold. Frost last night and considerable ice this morning

Thursday Apl. 1 Attending Court. Clear, sunny day, but  
quite cold. Frost & ice

Friday April 2 Attending Court. Weather moderating, but  
still cold. Hard frost last night

\*Mr & Mrs Barret arrived at my house

Saturday Apl. 3 Still cold & disagreeable Fires as neces-  
sary as in winter. Attending Court

\*Sunday-Apr. 4 1852 Had heavy thunder storm & rain last  
night. Raining most of the day with wind from the North East.

Miss Simpson, Mr Barret & myself attended baptist church  
and heard Mr. Keep preach very common place

Did not go out again Brady the father of the little Irish  
girl Mary, who has now been with us about a week was here to  
day, and it was agreed that Mary, who is now about 8 years  
old, should stay with us 3 or 4 years for her board & clothing.

He, however, insisted earnestly as a condition, which was  
granted, that she should be permitted to attend the Catholic  
Church

Monday Apl. 5 1852 Snow some <sup>†ten</sup> ~~three~~ inches deep this morn-  
ing & still snowing heavily with the wind from the N. W. My  
evergreens are, many of them prostrate, and I fear some of them  
broken. They are loaded with snow more than they can support.  
\*Cloudy through the day, but not cold. Snow melting

Attending Court—†Wrote to B†

Tuesday Apl. 6 Bright, beautiful morning. Over head much  
like Spring, and the deep snow which covers the ground is  
rapidly passing away

\*Attending Court

Wednesday Apl. 7 1852 Raining this morning. Snow almost all gone. After breakfast Mr & Mrs Barret & Miss Mary Simpson left for St. Louis, on board Steamer Die Vernon Cloudy throughout the day Attending Court

Thursday Apl 8 1852 Day something more pleasant but still chilly. Buds however begin to swell, and a hyacinth is in bloom to day, the first of the season

Attending Court

Friday Apl. 9 Attending Court. chilly day. Rainy afternoon

Saturday Apl. 10 1852 Dark, cloudy morning. Thunder lightning and rain before breakfast, and again in afternoon

Attending Court

Sunday Apl. 11 Bright, beautiful day. Warm & genial. Attended Church morning & evening.

Monday Apl. 12. Something colder than yesterday. Wind in the N. W. but clear morning \*Mrs Greene of Hannibal formerly Miss Langhorne, came to dinner & remained till after tea. Day rather pleasant Adjourned Court in forenoon till Court in course.

Tuesday April 13 1852 At work in office. Pretty good spring day, though cloudy in afternoon. Yesterday eveing I put out the bulbs of my tube roses, Tiger flowers & Gladiolas. To day at noon I transplanted a Prince Albert rose which I budded last fall, and in the afternoon two others budded also last fall; and put out a couple of grape slips given me by Col Jamison

In the evening attended concert of the Blakely family at Kendall's Hall, with Mrs B & Miss Kidwell. The performances were much superior to those of most traveling companies. Two songs "The Seasons" and "Father hear our prayer" were very fine; and the performances of Mr Hubbard the violinist were wonderful. Superior, in my judgment, to any I ever before heard. His execution of "the last rose of summer" was exquisite.

\*Wednesday Apl 14 At work in office. Fine spring day

In the evening attended concert of the Blakely family at Kendall's Hall.

Tuesday  
April 13  
1852



Thursday Apl. 15 At work in office—pleasant day. Mrs Browning & self took tea at Mrs Gillman's

In the evening attended concert of the Blakely family at Kendalls Hall, with Mrs Browning & Mrs Gillman

Friday, Apl 16 1852 Rained heavily last night, and raining this morning. Fine growing weather. Apricots in bloom this morning

At night attended Whig meeting in the South Ward School House to nominate city officers for the election Monday. Large & harmonious meeting, and nominations all made by acclamation except for Marshall, for which we balloted & Lewis Slack having received a majority of all the votes given on the first ballot was declared duly nominated. For Mayor, John Wood<sup>1</sup> Alderman North ward Jno. Wheeler

“ Middle “ A B Dorman

“ South “ Dr Ralston

Mrs Browning attended concert of Blakely family at Kendalls Hall. †Planted California seed†

Saturday April 17 Alternate sunshine and shower. Had asparagus to day for the first time this season Expected to start to Oquawha this afternoon, but the whigs have called a meeting for to night preparatory to the City election on Monday, and have prevailed upon me to remain and attend it

\*I attended the Whig meeting at night in the Hall of the Court House. Large & enthusiastic. I addressed it in reference to the coming election. Good feeling prevailing, and we have high hopes of success.

Sunday April 18 1852 Bright day. Attended church in the morning, and between 12 & 1 O'clock took passage on the Kate Kearney for Oquawka

Monday Apl 19 Landed at Oquawka at 2 o'clock this morning and took lodging at Barnes

<sup>1</sup>John Wood, 1798-1880. Founder of Quincy, 1822; elected lieutenant governor, 1856, becoming governor on the death of Bissell; member of the Peace Conference, 1861; quartermaster general of the state in the Civil War; colonel, 137th Volunteers; repeatedly elected mayor of Quincy. *Quincy Whig*, October 6, 1856.

Cool day & growing colder as the day wears  
Commenced Court

Tuesday Apl. 20 Bleak, cold morning—wind from the N W. Cannot dispense with fire at any time during the day; In the afternoon moderated a little & commenced raining before night

Attending Court

\*Wednesday Apl 21 1852 Day cloudy & cold, but not so cold as yesterday—moderating. Attending Court

Thursday Apl 22 Bright morning—but most of the day cloudy, though mild & pleasant

Attending Court

\*Friday Apl. 23 Got through with my business in Court this morning, and at 12 O'clock left Oquawka on Steamer Martha No 2. for home.

Rainy afternoon with prospect of disagreeable weather tomorrow, ~~when I have to go to Rushville~~

\*Saturday Apl 24 1852 Reached home this morning at 1 O'clock. Warm day with rainy afternoon

Sunday Apl. 25 Bright, beautiful morning & the warmest day of the season. At 8 O'clock started for Rushville with two horse buggy of Pinkham and black George for driver. Roads muddy & traveling very bad. Drove all day without stopping for dinner & arrived at Mt Sterling after sunset where I stayed all night at Coppages tavern. In the afternoon the wind shifted to the North West, and by night was cold enough to make fire very necessary.

Monday Apl. 26 1852 Day cloudy, cold & disagreeable.

After breakfast came on to Rushville. Three or four miles from Town broke the forward axletree of the carriage and had to walk in.

By binding it up with ropes, and then walking we managed to get it to Town. Arrived to dinner & put up at Alden's Tavern  
Court in session

Tuesday Apl. 27 \*Attending Court. A very pretty spring day—bright and pleasant. Took tea at Mr Jno. Scripps with Blackwell & wife, Bagby & wife and some others

Wednesday Apl 28 1852 Attending Court. Day cloudy but warm. Quite warm towards night & threatning rain—Took tea at Blackwells

Thursday Apl 29 Got through with Court this morning, and started home after dinner. Reached Clayton after sun down, and stopped at Beall's tavern, old friend Black having quit the business and gone upon a farm

Met with Bushnell and the other directors of the rail road company—the engineer &c who are out selecting a site for depot. Day Cloudy, but quite warm & pleasant, & the roads are much better than when I came over

Friday Apl 30 1852 After breakfast started for home, where I arrived  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2 P. M. Day warm, but wind blowing very heavily, and the clouds of dust sometimes completely blinding us

\*Saturday May 1. As bright & beautiful a morning as ever shone & quite warm enough. No fires necessary—pleasant with doors & windows open. The yard glistening with dandelions in bloom. Apple & cherry trees in full bloom.

The day has been clear & very warm throughout

Mr & Mrs Tillson came on visit to us

\*Sunday May 2 1852 Thunder & some rain through the morning; At 3 P M took passage on Kate Kearney for Keithsburg where Court sits tomorrow. The wind shifted to N W & evening & night quite cold

Monday May 3. Reached Keithsburg between 8 and 9 Oclock this morning. River quite full—just even with the banks, and should it continue to rise will soon be over the Town.

A good deal of rain during the night. Day cloudy & cool. Attending Court

Tuesday May 4 1852 Frost this morning. Cool day but moderating.

Took tea at old man Keiths

Attending Court

Wednesday May 5 A very fine Spring day Attending Court

Thursday May 6 Very warm. Rain last night & again to day  
Attending Court

Friday May 7 Rain last night & again to day—very warm.  
Court adjourned this afternoon

Saturday May 8 1852 Quite warm & raining at intervals.  
Waiting for a boat to return home & amusing myself fishing.  
At 3 p. m. got on board Die Vernon & started for home

River very high. Part of Oquawka & nearly all Tally, &  
Canton under water

Sunday May 9 Reached home this morning at 7 O'clock.  
Heavy rain last night, and raining to day at intervals—very  
warm Attended Church in the morning, and again at night.  
Lilacks & Tulips in full bloom & many of the rose bushes  
full of buds

\*Monday May 10 1852 At home hard at work in office.  
Weather warm and fine for farming Mr Bushnell has gone to  
New York. Left last week whilst I was at Mercer Court, and  
I am now very much confined in the office

Tuesday May 11 At work in office. Fine warm day

\*Wednesday May 12 Warm fine growing weather  
Mrs B, self, and some others took tea at Thayers

Thursday May 13 1852 Very warm & occasionally raining  
a little. Rained some at night & turned cool

Friday May 14 Quite cool, but not enough so to make fire  
necessary Cinnamon roses in bloom

\*Saturday May 15 At work in office. Fine weather. Piones  
in bloom

Sunday May 16 Pleasant morning, but before night turned  
so cold as to make fire necessary—Cloudy & looking like snow  
Attended Church morning & evening

Monday May 17 1852 Very cold this morning. Fires neces-  
sary throughout the day, although bright & pleasant out of doors.  
At work in office. Locust trees in bloom

Tuesday May 18 Morning apparently cold enough for frost, tho' I believe there was none in Town. There was, however, in the neighbourhood. Pearson says it was on his farm

Mr Paulin came into office to day to read law

Bright, pretty day, but too cold to dispense with fire After dark clouded up and had heavy wind & some rain

Wednesday May 19 1852 Very cold this morning. Wind from North, & overcoats & fires necessary

Thursday May 20 Cold morning. Frost in the neighbourhood abundantly, but did not see any at my house. Bright, beautiful day & some milder

Bot Laurel, & several roses at sale of flowers

Friday May 21 Bright morning & milder than yesterday, but fire still necessary. About noon commenced a gentle rain & continued till night N Wright Esqr of Cincinnati called to see me to day

Saturday May 22 1852 Bright pretty day. At work in office. Mr Wright & son & Mr & Mrs Tillson took tea with us

Sunday May 23 Attended Church morning & evening & heard Mr Tracy

Pretty day.

Monday May 24 Beautiful day. Set out Laurel, Passion flower, multiflora & Gigantia Roses

Tuesday May 25 Raining this morning when I awoke, and continued without intermission till 10½ A M

Warm throughout the day

\*Wednesday May 26, 1852 Warm pleasant day Took tea with Mrs Cross Mrs B & self—Mrs Hyer & Mrs Lott

Thursday May 27 Fine day. In afternoon Mrs B & self called at Dr Blatchfords, & after tea at Mr Coxe's

Friday May 28 Beautiful morning. Geore 4th Prince Albert & several other roses in bloom \*Mrs Hyer, Mrs Cross, Capt Leonard, & Lott & wife took tea with us

Saturday May 29 Warm, beautiful day. A. W. Dudley called. At night called on Carr & Dudley of Lexington at Ed Dudleys



Sunday May 30 1852 Attended Church morning and night. Beautiful day, but a little cold

Monday May 31 Very lovely day. At work in office. At night saw fire flies for first time this season

\*Tuesday June 1 A fair & very warm day. Mr Amos Cotting & Miss De la Porte were married this evening. Mrs B and myself attended their party at Judge Lotts. Lovely night. On our return at 11 O'clock found Miss Jane Johnston who arrived during our absence

Wednesday June 2 1852 Fair & very warm

Thursday June 3. Still warm but cloudy. Madam Laffey has six fine roses this morning

Near 10 O'clock commenced raining & continued gently till late in afternoon. Fine rain. Sun sat clear, and very pretty night. Had party at our house. From 150 to 200 persons present, and a very pleasant evening

Friday June 4 Bright, pretty day, but quite cool. Pleasant out of doors, but fire not uncomfortable in the house

Saturday June 5 1852 Clear pretty day, but quite cool—fire comfortable. Frost in the country last night.

Heard today of nomination of Genl Pierce for President by democratic convention

\*I am quite unwell with diarrhea & have had to take medicine

Sunday June 6 At home too unwell to attend church. Dr Blatchford & Rev Mr Spees of Galena dined with us. Miss Jane Johnston ill also. She went to church in morning and came home sick

Rain in the evening & at night, & quite cool

Monday June 7 1852 Court commences to day in Carthage, and I expected to have been there, but am detained at home by illness.

Am improving & hope to be able to go tomorrow

Has been raining at intervals all day, & still quite cool. Fire comfortable.

\*Tuesday June 8 At home. Cool day—and fire very necessary to comfort. At 3 P. M. took passage on Steamer Ben Camp-

bell for Warsaw, on my way to Hancock Court. Reached Warsaw just at night & walked out to deliver to Mrs Roosevelt some very handsome roses sent by Mrs B. Sat till 10 and went to Ralstons hotel and staid all night,

Wednesday June 9 1852 This morning came from Warsaw to Carthage with Canfield Hamilton. Arrived at 10 Oclock—Stopped with Artois Hamilton & worked hard in Court balance of the day

Came out in open buggy—had on winter clothing—wore an overcoat & suffered with cold. Have to keep fires in the Court room

Thursday June 10 Cold morning—fire very necessary, but the day clear, and warmer than for some days past. Attending Court at Carthage

Friday June 11 1852 Attending Court at Carthage. Continues cold & disagreeable. At night had fire in my room

Saturday June 12 Attending Court. Clear & very warm day. Genuine Summer.

Sunday June 13 At Carthage. Day very fine & very warm. Passed most of the time at my room reading

Dined at D. E. Head's with Wheat & Skinner & took tea at James Heads tavern

Monday June 14 Weather continues very fine, and very warm. Attending Court at Carthage

Tuesday June 15 1852 Attending Court at Carthage very warm

Wednesday June 16 Heavy wind & rain in the afternoon—warm

Thursday June 17 Rained gently most of the day—very warm Judge Skinner & self took tea at Scofields

Friday June 18 Got thro with Court to day and after dinner left Carthage in Hamilton's buggy, with Grover & others. Reached Warsaw before night & stopped at Ralstons. Warmest day of the season

Saturday June 19 1852 Day very warm. At 2½ O'clock P. M. got on board Steamer New England on her upward trip.

Went to Keokuk, thence to Montabello to take on hay, and returning left Keokuk about dark Mrs H Bull came aboard. Did not reach Quincy till near day.

Sunday June 20 Got home to breakfast. Fine day. Attended church morning & evening. Alex Pearson to dinner, and N G Wilcox Esqr<sup>1</sup> of Minnesota went with us to church at night

Monday June 21 1852 Court commenced in Quincy this morning. Morning very warm—rain in afternoon Heard today of nomination of Genl Scott

Tuesday June 22 Rain this morning—attending Court. Day cloudy and not so hot as for sometime past. Had Raspberries for first time this season

Wednesday June 23 Attending Court. Rainy and cold

Thursday June 24 Same as yesterday

Friday June 25 1852 Attending Court. Fine weather Mrs Browning, Miss Johnston & self took tea at Judge Lotts

During absence Mr & Mrs Roosevelt<sup>2</sup> arrived, & went to Quincy House.

Saturday June 26 Attending Court. Pleasant weather. Roosevelts breakfasted with us

Sunday June 27 Clear & very warm.

Attended Church. In morning Mr Marks preached. At night, Thompson, of abolition notoriety,<sup>3</sup> who has been in Africa, talked, & read manuscript poetry

Monday June 28 1852 Attending Court. Fine day. In the evening went to Judge Lotts to party given his servant girl who got married. Did not stay long

Tuesday June 29 Day warm. Some thunder & a little rain. Court still in session

Wednesday June 30 Very warm day. At night heavy

<sup>1</sup>N. G. Wilcox. Perhaps the same man who was the Whig candidate for lieutenant governor of Illinois in 1846.

<sup>2</sup>Probably William H. Roosevelt; settled in Warsaw about 1836; lawyer, politician, land speculator; elected to the legislature in 1858.

<sup>3</sup>Probably George Thompson, 1804-1878, an English abolitionist who had created a furor in the United States 1834-1835.

thunder storm and rain. Mr Bushnell got home from New York yesterday intelligence of death of Mr Clay reached here  
Court still sitting

Thursday July 1 1852 Cloudy & rather cool day Attending Court

Friday July 2 Pretty day but very cool. Fire not only comfortable but almost necessary

Cross elevated on Church of St. Bonifacius (Catholic) to day

Saturday July 3 Delightful day. Court adjourned this morning, and I am busy preparing for U S Court at Springfield, where I expect to start on Monday

\*At night attended episcopal Church and heard bishop Whitehouse<sup>1</sup> preach a good but not eloquent sermon.

\*Sunday July 4 1852 Attended Pres. Church in the morning. At night at episcopal to hear Mr Giddings preach Mr Clays funeral sermon—Common place affair

Monday July 5 Our citizens are keeping this day as the anniversary of our independence. They intend to go on a pick-nick to Watson's Spring

At 9 O'clock A. M. John Tillson<sup>2</sup> W. S. Lee, Joseph Gilpin<sup>3</sup> and myself started for Springfield in one of Pinkhams carriages with black George for a driver. Dined at Kingston—stayed all night at Perry weather very hot.

Tuesday July 6 1852 After breakfast pursued our journey—reached Naples at 10 O'clock, and at 11 took the Carrs for Springfield.

Much crowded with persons going to Jacksonville to Commencement, and delegates on their way to Springfield to attend the whig convention. Reached Springfield at 5 P. M. & Lee & self took lodging at Mrs Enos

<sup>1</sup>Henry John Whitehouse, 1803-1874. Bishop of Illinois from 1852.

<sup>2</sup>John Tillson. Probably the junior John Tillson, 1825-1892. Practiced law in Quincy and Galena, 1847-1861; served in the Civil War rising to brevet brigadier general. The senior John Tillson, 1796-1853, an Illinois pioneer, died at Peoria, May 11, 1853. Robert Tillson, 1800-1892, was a brother of John Tillson and a merchant in Quincy, 1828-1840; a government contractor during the war.

<sup>3</sup>Probably Joseph B. Gilpin, 1825-1878. Born in Virginia; came to Quincy, 1842; admitted to the bar, 1844; in real estate business; major in the commissariat during the war.

At night had an informal meeting of the delegates to the convention at the Court House. and agreed to meet tomorrow at 12 for the purpose of organizing

Day excessively hot

Wednesday July 7 1852 At 12 O'clock convention assembled in representative hall—was called to order by Mr Coffing<sup>1</sup> of Laselle and Anson Miller<sup>2</sup> of Winnebago placed in the chair. Committee on credentials and committee to report officers for permanent organization were appointed, and adjourned to 2 O'clock P. M. At 2 reassembled and to my surprise I was appointed President of the Convention.

Took the chair, and the convention being very full we proceeded to business On motion of E. B. Webb Esqr<sup>3</sup> of White County, was by acclamation declared the candidate for Governor We then proceeded to vote for Lieut Governor Col J L D Morrison,<sup>4</sup> B S Morris,<sup>5</sup> & Asahel Gridley<sup>6</sup> were put in nomination—the Counties were called Alphabetically, and, ore tenus, its full vote cast for the candidate of its choice. On the first vote Col Morrison was nominated by a large majority.

<sup>1</sup>Churchill Coffing, 1813-1873. Whig politician; graduated from Yale 1834; came to Peru in 1839, becoming interested in grain warehousing and banking.

<sup>2</sup>Anson Miller. Born 1810; graduate of Hamilton College, 1835; came to Rockford, Illinois. 1840; member of House of Representatives, General Assembly, 1844-1845; Senate, 1846-1848; Whig and Republican politician.

<sup>3</sup>Edwin B. Webb, 1802-1858. Whig politician; served in General Assembly, 1834-1846; in 1853 ran for Supreme Court justice against Walter B. Scates.

<sup>4</sup>J. L. D. Morrison, 1816-1888. Lawyer and politician; served in the Mexican War as Bissell's lieutenant colonel; was more or less of a nondescript in politics; his Whiggism was suspected even now and within two years he had joined the Democrats. Governor John Reynolds (*Quincy Whig*, January 12, 1860) said of him that if he managed to keep out of the penitentiary for twenty years he would be the richest man in the state.

<sup>5</sup>Buckner S. Morris, 1800-1879. Circuit judge, 1851-1855; Know Nothing candidate for governor, 1856; Bell-Everett candidate, 1860; accused of complicity in a plot to free Confederate prisoners at Camp Douglas.

<sup>6</sup>Asahel Gridley, 1810-1881. Bloomington lawyer, banker and business man; successively a Whig, a Republican, and in 1872 a Liberal Republican.



B S Morris was then nominated for secretary of State Francis Arenz<sup>1</sup> for Treasurer & Charles Betts<sup>2</sup> for Auditor After nominating elections, and passing various resolutions convention adjourned. At night a ratification meeting was held at the State House, but was rather a poor affair. I was loudly called for but did not address the meeting

\*Thursday July 8 1852 This morning went into the U S Court, which is now in session, and commenced business. Judge McLean is not here—Drummond presides alone. The weather is excessively hot, and on yesterday there were two deaths by Cholera in Town

Friday July 9 Attending Court Thunder storm & heavy rain last night, but excessively warm to day

Saturday July 10 Attending Court

Very warm, and an occasional case of Cholera W<sup>m</sup> A Grimshaw<sup>3</sup> arrived this evening

Sunday July 11 1852 Attended Mr Dodges church in the morning & Dr Smiths in the evening—Very warm

Monday July 12 Attending Court. Commenced trial of Williamson, formerly Post master at Lacon who is indicted for robbing the mail. I am assisting Lincoln at his request— Col Jonas,<sup>4</sup> Pinkham & others arrived from Quincy this evening. Rain in afternoon

Tuesday July 13 Argued case agt Williamson. The evidence was very strong. Almost conclusive. I was so discouraged that I wished to decline a speech, but at the persuasion of Lincoln addressed the jury for something over two hours. The case was given to them at 4 P M & they are yet out at 9. The Defendant is a young man, who lost a leg in the Mexican war,

<sup>1</sup>Francis Arenz, 1800-1856. Born in Germany; came to Illinois 1829; merchant, farmer, and Whig politician in Cass County.

<sup>2</sup>Charles Betts. Born in 1825; practiced law at Freeport; after 1859 a Douglas Democrat.

<sup>3</sup>William A. Grimshaw, 1813-1895. Came to Pike County, 1833; lawyer and Whig and Republican politician.

<sup>4</sup>Colonel Abraham Jonas, 1802[?]-1864. Born in England; settled first in Cincinnati, then in Kentucky, finally in Quincy; a prominent Mason and political organizer among the Jews; first a Whig then a Republican. *Quincy Whig*, June 14, 1864.

and does not look to be very bright. Is a total stranger to me, & I believe him to be guilty, but wish him acquitted. My sympathies are awakened I am sorry for the poor devil.

Wednesday July 14 Jury found Williamson guilty. Will yet try to arrest the judgment but have not much hope Jonas left this morning—weather much cooler.

Thursday July 15 1852 Have been all day trying the case of Northup vs Kent

Jo. Gillespie<sup>1</sup> arrived to day, and is boarding with us  
Quite cool—Had to put on woollen socks & cloth coat

Friday July 16 Fine day—Attending Court  
Gillespie left us this evening at 8 O'clock

Saturday July 17 Again very warm—Cloudy at night and threatening rain

Attending Court

Sunday July 18 1852 Fine day—Attended Mr Dodges Church in the morning. At night called on Miss Holloway & Mrs Massey

\*Monday July 19 Bright & very warm day—Attending Court—Lawrence & Lee left for Quincy this morning. At night P. P. Enos<sup>2</sup> & self called on Mrs Johnson, Mrs Fondy & Miss Barret—

Tuesday July 20 Very warm. Attending Court.

Hay<sup>3</sup> & Grimshaw left this morning

Wednesday July 21 1852 Mrs Browning & Mrs Williams arrived in cars this evening.

After tea Mrs B & self called at Mr Fondys to see Mrs Johnson—

Very warm day

<sup>1</sup>Joseph Gillespie, 1809-1885. Came to Edwards County, 1819; admitted to bar, 1837; Whig member of legislature; Know Nothing; Republican after 1856. His papers are in the Chicago Historical Society, and reveal interesting relations with other Whig and Republican politicians of his day. There are some comical letters to him from Governor John Reynolds.

<sup>2</sup>Pascal P. Enos, Jr., 1816-1867. Representative in General Assembly, 1852; clerk of the United States Circuit Court.

<sup>3</sup>Probably Milton Hay, 1817-1893. One of the most prominent lawyers of the state.

Thursday July 22 One of the warmest days of the season. After tea Mrs B & self called at Mr Ridgleys, Mr Edwards, & spent the evening at Lincolns

Friday July 23 About 11 O'clock whilst trying a case the judge was taken very ill, and had to suspend business for the day—Had cholera symptoms.

Mr Williams & myself agreed to continue our cases and go home

Fine rain in the afternoon, Mrs B & self spent the evening at Mr Stuarts<sup>1</sup>

Saturday July 24 To day I have disposed of all my remaining cases, and am now ready to start home—Rained again to day. Mrs B & self at Ridgely's in evening

Sunday July 25 Attended Mr Dodge's church in the morning, and Dr Smiths in evening very warm day

\*Monday July 26 1852 At 8 o'clock left Springfield in the cars, and at 11 reached Jacksonville, and stopped at Judge Browns: In the evening called to see them at Mrs Duncan's—Anna died just one week ago, and Hannah is not expected to live, and the family in deep affliction

Tuesday July 27 At 11 A M left Jacksonville for home, having first called on Mrs Clay & Mrs McKee

Dined at Naples and at 2½ P M took the stage for Quincy—Weather very hot and coach crowded. Got supper at Mt. Sterling, and continued our journey all night

Wednesday July 28 1852 Mrs B & self reached home this morning just after sunrise, having travelled all night in a coach crowded with passengers

One of the hottest days of the season

Thursday July 29 At home at work in the office. Another excessively hot day. At night had a very heavy storm of wind & some thunder lightning & rain, but not much of the latter.

Friday—July 30 1852 Very fine day, clear and agreeably cool—At 6½ P M left home in the stage to attend rail road meet-

<sup>1</sup>John T. Stuart, 1807-1885. Illinois politician; congressman, 1839-1843; Lincoln's first law partner; at first a Whig; Bell-Everett candidate for governor, 1860; Democratic congressman, 1863-1865.

ing at Versailles tomorrow & traveled all night Two other passengers—a Miss Merrick of Ohio going on a visit to Mr Adams at Mt Sterling, and a gentleman on his way to Peoria, whose name I did not know

Saturday July 31 Reached Versailles at 6½ this morning, \*and at 1 P. M. addressed a large meeting in favour of a subscription of stock by the County.<sup>1</sup> The best feeling prevails, and I think there is no doubt the proposition will carry.

Saturday  
July 31  
1852

At 6 P. M. I took the stage for home, and traveled all night.

Sunday Augt 1. Reached home this morning at 6 O'clock, and was astounded to hear of the death of Mrs Eliza P Barret of St. Louis, daughter of Hon James Simpson of Ky. She died on Wednesday last—She was one of the most elegant, accomplished and estimable women of my acquaintance, and among my most intimate and best loved friends. The blow is a heavy and afflicting one, but I must bow myself in submission to God's will. She died in the full bloom of her beauty—the full vigor of her womanhood. But, after all, her existence is abbreviated of only a few short and fleeting moments, and we must all soon follow

Sunday  
Augt 1  
1852

Our lives like gliding streams must be  
That into one engulfing sea  
Are doomed to fall  
The sea of Death—whose waves roll on  
O'er king & kingdom, crown & throne  
And swallow all.

Monday Augt 2 1852 At work in the office. In the afternoon attacked violently with dysentary or bloody flux.

Went home & took medicine

Tuesday Augt 3 Confined to my room taking medicine, and, I think improving—

Wednesday Augt 4 Keeping my room, but consider myself convalescent The disease appears to be arrested

To day the whig Congressional Convention of this district meets in Mt. Sterling to nominate a candidate

<sup>1</sup>This was in all probability for a subscription to the stock of the Northern Cross Railroad.

\*Thursday Augt 5 1852 To day I learned that I had been unanimously nominated by the whig Convention at Mt. Sterling for Congress My present intention is, providence permitting, to devote myself to a canvass of the district & try and secure my election

Convalescing but keeping my room

Friday Augt 6 At work in my Library writing an answer in chy for S S Phelps

Saturday Augt 7 Same as yesterday Cox & wife took tea with us

Sunday Augt 8 1852 Attended church in morning & heard Mr Cass preach In afternoon Mrs Green & her little daughter, & Mrs Brown & her little son, all from Hannibal arrived At night Mrs Brown & myself attended church & heard Mr Cass

Monday Augt 9 This morning Mrs Green & Mrs Brown left on packet, and Mrs Browning with them on her way to St Louis. She has gone down to see about poor Liz Barrets child

I am at home with the servants Spent the day at work in the office

Tuesday Augt 10 1852 At work in the office. The weather is, and has been for sometime past, unusually dry—have no rain for several weeks—Every thing burning up. Still the weather is delightful Days bright & mild, & nights quite cool

Wednesday Augt 11 This afternoon Mrs Browning reached home from St Louis on Steamer John Simpson

Weather still clear & dry

Thursday Augt 12 Between 4 & 5 P. M. of to day Henry Brooke Esqr, who for the last two weeks has been lying ill at Mrs Reeds in Hampshire street sent for me. I went to him without delay, and found him dying. He was entirely sensible of his condition—His voice was strong & natural, and he was in full possession of all his faculties—Said that I had been a kind, good friend to him, and he wished to bid me farewell. He was dying, his remaining moments were but few, but he was reconciled to die—He was in no pain, and hoped he would die in ease. I remained with him until 6 O'clock, and then went home to tea.



Returned between 7 & 8 and found him apparently sleeping, easily and quietly, but his respiration quicker than when I left him. I now remained till 8 and then to go to Kendalls Hall, where it was expected I would address the Scott Club. I was in no frame of mind for political discussions, and when the meeting was organized I announced Mr Brookes condition and moved an adjournment which was at once assented to, and I immediately returned to his bed side—Just as I entered his room at 8½ P M he breathed his last—Died like an infant without a struggle.

Mr Brooke had been here but ten months, but his many estimable qualities—his very great worth had endeared him to all who knew him.

I loved him as a brother

Friday Augt 13 1852 At 4 P. M. attended the funeral of Mr Brooke, and assisted in the last sad duties of humanity & friendship. With great tranquility and composure he passed through the dark valley which lies before us all, and to which every step we take in this vale of tears is bringing us nearer and nearer. Sooner or later we must all reach its extreme verge, and cross the cold stream which lies beyond May God give us grace to prepare for the dread moment. Brooke had made his peace with his creator, and died in hope of a blessed immortality

Oh, may I too die the death of the righteous!

Saturday August 14 1852 For weeks we have had no rain—The weather has been hot and dry—vegetation is burning up, and the dust suffocating This morning at 6 O'clock it commenced raining gently, beautifully, and continued till 10½

All the afternoon I was at the animal show. Took tea at Erskines<sup>1</sup>

Sunday Augt 15 Attended church in the morning & again at night

Delightful day

\*Monday Augt 16 At work in office—Fine day

\*Mrs Fleming, Irish woman moved into Cabin to day

<sup>1</sup>James P. Erskine, born in 1793. Came to Quincy in 1844; married a daughter of Romulus Riggs, a well-known eastern speculator in Illinois lands. Erskine represented his father-in-law's interests.

Tuesday Augt 17 1852 At work in office—Fine day—Hollowbush's old horse came to my stable to day

Wednesday Augt 18 Fine day—At work in office. Mrs Browning & self took tea at Cox's

Thursday Augt 19 Had very fine rain this morning before day, which continued gently till about 11 O'clock. At 10 A. M. attended funeral of Thomas Dudley who died yesterday, aged about 9 years. He was an affectionate child & appeared to be about the only bond of union between his parents

Friday August 20 1852 At 5 O'clock this morning Jonas, Cox & myself started for Mt. Sterling in carriage of Pinkhams, with black George for a driver. We are going over to attend a rail road meeting. Day excessively warm, and roads heavy from rain of yesterday. Dined at Clayton & reached Mt. Sterling from 2 to 3 P. M. Large Concourse of people—All addressed them, and think the success of the subscription certain Vote to be taken tomorrow.

We staid all night with Singleton

Saturday Augt 21 1852 This morning we came from Mt. Sterling to Clayton, and after dinner Cox & myself addressed the people—he being candidate for the Legislature in Adams & Brown, and I candidate for Congress—

The day was very warm, and one of our horses being sick we left them & the carriage in charge of the driver at at 9½ P. M. took stage for home.

Sunday Augt 22 Reached home just after day having traveled all night—Attended church morning & evening—Heavy rain just at night. Alex Pearson with us

\*Monday Augt 23 1852 A very warm day, and the warmest night of the season. At work in office.

Tuesday Augt 24 At work in the office—one of the hottest days of summer

Wednesday Augt 25 At work in office—Still very warm

\*Thursday Augt 26 Weather moderated and day quite pleasant. At night attended meeting of Scott Club at Kendalls Hall Dr Drude, Cox & myself addressed the meeting. Good

attendance and indications highly favourable I addressed a large meeting at the same place last Thursday night

Friday Augt 27 1852 Delightful day. At work in office.

During this summer we have suffered more with drouth than in any one I remember. The corn crops have been materially injured, but yet they promise to be abundant. The Illinois river is almost exhausted, and for a month past has been valueless for navigation. Hundreds of passengers have passed here on boats from St Louis to Galena, to cross the country to Chicago on their way East The travel through this place would have been immense had our rail roads been in operation

Saturday Augt 28, 1852 Fine day—At work in office. Mrs B & self went out to Pearsons to tea

Sunday Augt 29 Attended Church morning & evening. Stranger preached at night—Weather fine

Monday Augt 30 Quite warm. To day I have arranged & sent out my appointments for a canvass of the Congressional district, and expect to leave in the morning to meet my engagements I am sorry I ever became a candidate, but am in for it now, and must go through with good heart, tho it is at great sacrifice

\*Tuesday Augt 31 1852 This morning with Pinkham's bay mare Sallie & a covered buggy, I started for Mt. Sterling, from which place I will go to Schuyler & Pike Counties on a political campaign. My appointments extend from now to the first of Nov. two months.

If elected I am to pay Pinkham \$1.50 cts pr day for the horse & buggy—if beaten \$50 for the entire trip

I left home a little before 8 O'clock. The day was very warm indeed. Dined at Bealls in Clayton. Rested there two hours & came on to Mt. Sterling, where I arrived at 6, and stopped with Singleton. Brot James Hendrickson from Clayton in my buggy. He lives there, but is doing a job of plastering here

Wednesday Sept 1 1852 After dinner went down to Versailles and addressed the people at night, at the school house—Pretty good audience Had thunder storm & rain at night;

stopped at Esqr Castine's & took him down to Versailles with me in my buggy, intending to return there, and stay all night, but it was 9 O'clock when I got through the speaking, & so dark I didn't like to drive, and staid at Townsend tavern, under a promise to go to Esqr Castines to breakfast in the morning. The day has been very warm, and the roads quite dusty

Thursday Sept 2 1852 At 6 this morning left Versailles, and rode to Esqr Casteens to breakfast. After breakfast returned to Mt. Sterling, & remained there balance of the day. At night addressed the people at the Court house—Pretty good turn out, & I have reason to believe a favourable impression was made—

Friday Sept 3. After dinner left Singletons & drove down to Ripley. Stopped at Clarks tavern—abominable place. Addressed the people at night in the Christian Church. Good attendance—Weather continues fine

\*Saturday Sept 4 1852 Awoke this morning at day break with severe dysentary, and for an hour or more suffered very greatly, but I took medicine promptly from which I obtained such relief as enabled me at 10 O'clock to proceed to Rushville, where I arrived at 12 and stopped at Aldens tavern.

In the afternoon addressed the people—a very large attendance, and my whig friends appeared highly pleased, and in fine spirits At five left Rushville with Blackwell with me to meet an appointment at night near Scotts mill, in Brown County. It was almost 8 O'clock at night when we reached Mr Abram Smiths, and had then a mile to walk to the school house where the meeting was to be, before we got there met a man returning who said the people had given us out, and gone home.

We returned to Smiths and staid all night.

Sunday Sept 5 After breakfast came on to Mt. Sterling & stopped at Singletons, where I am now resting

Weather continues very dry and very warm

Monday Sept 6 1852 After breakfast I left Mt Sterling for Perry—accompanied by Jo. Hobbs & Bob Blackwell—Reached Perry at 11 O'clock—Stopped at my friend Whites—

Addressed a large meeting of the people in the Christian Church at 2 O'clock, and was followed by C. L. Higbee<sup>1</sup> of Pittsfield. Staid all night at Whites

Tuesday Sept 7 Came from Perry to Griggsville Blackwell & self addressed the People in McIntoshs Hall—at 2 Oclook—left there at 6 & came to Pittsfield, where we both addressed the Scott Club at night—Staid all night with Henry Mudd

Wednesday Sept 8 1852 Went to Milton. The people were out in considerable numbers. Addressed them at 2 O'clock for two hours with apparently good effect Was followed by Higbee in reply for an hour & a half. Nearly sun down when we left Milton to return to Pittsfield where I had an appointment at night. \*After 8 O'clock when we got back, and nearly 9 when I reached the Court House where the meeting was assembled—Too late to make a speech but made an apology & promised a speech on Monday.

Weather very warm & dry—Staid all night with Henry T. Mudd

Thursday Sept 9 1852 Appointment to day for Summer Hill, six or eight miles west of Pittsfield Henry T. Mudd, who has been with me since I came to the County, went with me in my buggy. Dined at Thompsons in New Hartford, and addressed the people in the School House at Summer Hill at 2 Oclook. Had a crowded house & some ladies out. If appearances are not altogether deceptive I have done well by coming here.

After speaking returned to Pittsfield, and staid all night with Henry Mudd

Friday Sept 10 1852 Drove from Pittsfield to Pleasant Vale & stopped at Stanleys tavern. After dinner addressed the people—then drove to Rock Port, 9 miles below, and made another speech at night. Had as many present at each place as could be accomodated in the houses respectively Mudd & self staid all night with Dr Whiting

<sup>1</sup>Chauncey L. Higbee, 1821-1884. Came to Pike County, Illinois, 1844; elected state representative, 1854; state senator, 1856; served as circuit judge after 1861.



\*Saturday Sept 11 Went from Rock Port to Barry, and after dinner addressed a very large meeting in the Methodist church for two hours and a half. Quite a number of ladies were out to hear me. Higbee replied.

I stopped at De Havens tavern but dined at Dr Bakers, and staid all night at Elisha Hurts. Made the acquaintance of Mrs Hurt & Mrs Lillis, two very clever women.

It is still clear and dry, but has become much cooler than it was

Sunday Sept 12 Mudd & myself came down to Pittsfield to his house, where I now am. So cool we rode with overcoats on.

Called this evening to see Dr Worthington & family, and spent an hour with them

\*Monday Sept 13 1852 Col Richardson reached Pittsfield this morning & after dinner he and I addressed the people in the Court House for an hour & a quarter each.<sup>1</sup> When we were through I started for Barry—Arrived there at dark, and staid all night at De Havens tavern.

Payson—

Tuesday Sept 14 1852 Drove to Barry. Stopped with friend Stewart. At two O'clock addressed the people in the baptist church for two hours, & then drove home, where I arrived just at night

Wednesday Sept 15 1852 Linder,<sup>2</sup> Cox & Jno. Morton<sup>3</sup> to dinner with me \*After dinner I started in one of Pinkham's buggys for Henderson County A few miles out of Town met Arenz going in I drove as far as Mendon and stayed all night at Frisbys Tavern.

<sup>1</sup>According to the *Quincy Whig*, September 20, 1852, Browning's triumph over Richardson at Pittsfield was crushing.

<sup>2</sup>Usher F. Linder, 1809-1876. Came to Illinois in 1835; lawyer; a rather inconsistent Whig to the dissolution of the party; then a Democrat; had a reputation for oratory and dissipation. He was partially responsible for the Alton riots resulting in the murder of Lovejoy, because of his inability to resist making a flowery speech. Author of *Reminiscences of the Early Bench and Bar of Illinois*, published Chicago, 1879.

<sup>3</sup>John T. Morton. Graduate of Illinois College; editor of the *Quincy Whig*, 1852-1859; appointed clerk of the Kansas District Court by Archibald Williams, 1861. *Quincy Whig*, July 21, 1854, March 16, 1861.

Thursday Sept 16 Drove to Carthage, and stopped at Hamiltons till after dinner

Saw Simpson, Steele and others & arranged appointments for Hancock County—Then drove on to Pontoosac where I now am at Balls tavern

\*Friday Sept 17 1852 Went up to Dallas and stopped with a man by the name of Reed After dinner Richardson and myself addressed the people in Rollosons ware house for an hour each—tolerable turn out. I then drove twelve miles to Mr Curts & arrived just at dusk. Commenced raining a little before, & continued all night without intermission, and some part of the time very heavily—the first we have had for weeks Staid all night with Mr Curts.

\*Saturday Sept 18 1852 Continued to rain through out the morning. I remained at Mr Curts till after dinner—then drove three miles to Warren & stopped at Nath: Hoppers Tavern

Richardson & self addressed the People in the church—House full, but late when we commenced, & spoke only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour each.

Staid all night at Hoppers—Young Mr Houseworth of Oquawka staid, at my request, to ride up with me in the morning

Sunday Sept 19 1852 After breakfast Mr Houseworth & self drove up to Oquawka, and I stopped by invitation at Mr McKinney's where I now am. At night went with Miss Ann to preaching at the Court House, and heard an excellent sermon from Mr Newton, a baptist minister—

\*Monday Sept 20 Cloudy, cool & occasionally raining. At 2 P. M. Richardson & self addressed the people at the Court House for  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hour each, he refusing to speak longer.

The subjects of discussion on my part are River & Harbor improvements—the tariff and, when time allows, the nullification resolution in the Pierce platform.

On the subject of internal improvements the Col occupies the same ground that I do, and insists that there is no difference in the Platforms of the two parties upon the subject, but that the resolutions adopted by them mean the same thing—yet he cannot

Monday  
Sept 20  
1852

day 20 explain how it is that Polk never approved a river and harbor bill, and that Pierce never voted one, but still insists that Pierce, if elected, will never veto one. I advocate the protective principle in the tariff—he is for a uniform ad valorem tariff of 20 per cent upon all things, without any discriminations in favour of domestic productions. His remaining topics are the old federal party—alien & sedition laws, Mexican war, California gold—the rich & the poor—whig extravagance, stealing in general &c. &c.

Tuesday Sept 21 1852 To day I have attended court. Took tea at Mr William Moir's, and at candle lighting addressed the Scott Club at the Court House—Ladies out and house crowded. Made the poorest speech that I have during the canvass.

Has cleared of beautifully

\*Wednesday Sept 22 1852 Attended Court in the forenoon. After dinner left Oquawka, and drove down as far as Mr Curts and staid all night.

A lovely autumn day—Clear, mild & balmy.

\*Thursday Sept 23 Drove<sup>from</sup> Mr Curts to LaHarpe—stopped at Rapalees Tavern. At 1 O'clock Richardson & myself addressed the people for one hour each, and then I drove to Pontoosac 14 miles distant, and spoke again to a crowded house for two hours—Ladies out to hear me. Stopped at Hewetts Tavern Rained very heavily at night

\*Friday Sept 24 1852 Drove from Pontoosac to Nauvoo 14 miles. Stopped at Bidemans tavern In afternoon Richardson & self addressed the people for one hour & a quarter each in the Methodist Church.

Cloudy disagreeable day

day 25 \*Saturday Sept 25 Raining this morning—Drove to Warsaw—Before I got there rain ceased, & day became quite pleasant. Found Mrs Browning at Mr Wagley's. I dined there in company with Genl Stephens & Lady, and Mr Bliss After dinner I addressed the People for two hours Linder came in whilst I was speaking and made a speech after I had concluded.

Mrs B & self went to Mr Roosevelt's & staid all night.

Sunday  
Sept 26  
1852

\*Sunday Sept 26 Beautiful day. Rev Mr Dodge called to see us at Mr Roosevelts. We did not go out. Between 8 & 9 Oclock we went to the River that Mrs B might take a boat home—Soon got on Savanah by mistake—supposing it the packet. She carried me off to Keokuk. At Keokuk moved Mrs B on St. Paul which landed about half hour after we did. She lay at Keokuk all night, and of course we did not sleep much.

Monday  
Sept 27  
1852

\*Monday Sept 27 A little after day break got back to War saw on Steamer St. Paul. Mrs B went on home. I landed & went to Roosevelts to breakfast After breakfast started for Sylvandale—Roosevelt rode with me 4 miles—Arrived at Mr Wrights at Sylvan Dale about 11—Notice of appointment had not been circulated, and but few persons in attendance. Did not make a speech Majr Smith, candidate for Legislature in this county, & Mr Welch candidate for Sheriff joined me here. All dined at Mr Wrights and then drove to Chili—Stopped at Mrs Stephens Tavern

At night I addressed the people—Had a crowded house

Tuesday Sept 28 From Chili to Augusta—stopped at Meades tavern. Scoot Club out in procession with music &c.

Tuesday  
Sept 28  
1852

At 11 Oclock assembled at Church where I spoke for two hours—Large meeting

After dinner came to St. Mary's—Stopped at Tyrrels. At Candle lighting Col Richardson & myself addressed the People at the Church for  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour each—Crowded house—quite a number of ladies out—Majr Smith & myself went home with Mr Botts, a farmer of the neighbourhood, & staid all night

Weather beautiful

Wednes-  
day  
Sept 29  
1852

Wednesday Sept 29 Came to Fountain Green—Arrived about 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  A. M. and stopped at the house of Mr Welsh

After dinner addressed the people in the school house—

Quite large meeting—Ladies in attendance.

Came from Fountain Green to Carthage, where I arrived just at night, and stopped at Hamiltons. Found Linder here—We took a room together

\*Thursday Sept 30 Mass meeting at Carthage. Com-menced assembling early. Procession formed in Town and

day  
0 moved out West to a grove. By 11 O'clock several thousand present. I addressed them for 1½ hour from a stand in the grove. Strong S W wind blowing & very laborious speaking, but I accomplished it with tolerable ease. Upon the conclusion of my speech we adjourned for dinner About 600 ladies present. I walked around the tables & chatted a while—then went into Town to Hamiltons tavern and took dinner, and at 3 O'clock left there for Augusta where I arrived at 6 and stopped at Meads tavern. Linder & Blackwell were to speak after I left. The day was warm & pleasant. We feared rain but it kept off till night. The day was finely adapted to the whole proceeding except speaking in the open air After night rained some but not a great deal

\*Friday Oct 1 1852 About 10 O'clock left Augusta and drove down to Huntsville, where Richardson & myself addressed the people for an hour each, and then drove down to Camden, and both spoke again at night.

I staid all night at Mr Stewarts with Dr Bruce

Singleton met me at Huntsville, and came on down to Camden

day Saturday, Oct 2 I had an appointment at Brooklyn to day, which Singleton has agreed to meet for me, and I go to Rushville to meet Richardson. Came to Rushville & stopped at Alden's. After dinner the Col & myself spoke at the Court House to a large audience. The whigs were highly pleased that I came. Then went to Frederic and spoke there at night. Capt Geo: Robinson got in my buggy and rode down with me. Rained some to day & traveling very bad—Did not reach Frederic till dark. Staid at Blacks tavern

Sunday Oct 3 1852 Raining this morning when I got up, & continued without intermission till near sun down, when the wind shifted to N. W. & the sun broke out very prettily, giving promise of a fair day tomorrow. After breakfast came up to Rushville, where I arrived about 10 O'clock, stopped at Alden's & gave the balance of the day to rest. I needed it—Am some what hoarse, and very much wearied, but hope to be refreshed by morning—for, with tomorrows sun, with the blessing of providence, my labours are to be resumed.



\*Monday Oct 4 1852 Came from Rushville to Mt Sterling & stopped at Singletons.

In afternoon Richardson and myself spoke to the people at the Court House He went on to Quincy to attend democratic mass meeting—I go to McDonough tomorrow. Genl Shields<sup>1</sup> is here & speaking to night. I do not go to hear him, but keep my room to write letters. Blackwell is to answer him The day has been very beautiful

\*Tuesday Oct 5 1852 We put a tongue to my buggy this morning, and added one of Singleton's horses, and after breakfast he and I started for LaMoine in McDonough County The day was fine, but the roads bad, and we did not arrive till 3 P. M. My appointment to speak was at one, and some of the people had left, but there was still a good meeting. I spoke to them out in the grove—Staid all night at Dr Randolphs—Heavy rain in the night.

Wednesday Oct 6 1852 Came to Middletown & stopped at a poor tavern. Spoke to the people after dinner. Had good attendance. then drove to Milton Hunts 9 miles distant, & spoke again at night. Good turnout—Ladies present

Singleton, Dr Randolph & John Hail came with me, and we all spent the night at Hunts.

The day has been very warm & somewhat cloudy

\*Thursday Oct 7 1852 Drove from Hunts to Blandonville & stopped at Jones tavern—After dinner addressed the people—Large attendance—Ladies present. Before speaking commenced they run up a flag with the names of Scott, Graham<sup>2</sup> & Brown-ing. After speaking drove to Jno D. Hainlines 6 miles, where

<sup>1</sup>James Shields, 1810-1879. Born in Ireland; began practice of law at Kaskaskia, Illinois, 1832; served in the legislature, as state auditor, as justice of the Illinois Supreme Court; commissioner of the General Land Office; brigadier and brevet major general in the Mexican War; governor of Oregon Territory; served in the United States Senate from Illinois, 1849-1855, Minnesota, 1858-1859, Missouri, 1879; served as brigadier general in the Civil War to 1863; Democrat. Best remembered for having served in the United States Senate from three different states, and for having challenged Abraham Lincoln to a duel, which had an ending of comedy.

<sup>2</sup>Scott and Graham was, of course, the Whig presidential ticket.

we got supper, and then went on  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles further to Union School house where I spoke at night. Very dark & disagreeable, but house crowded. Then drove two miles further with John Hail to pilot us thro the dark & stayed all night at Mr Stickels

Friday Oct 8 1852 To day my appointment was at Industry 10 miles south of Macomb. Left Mr Stickels, 6 miles north of Macomb after breakfast, and passing thro Macomb drove on to Industry—Cyrus Lawson, Twyman & six or eight others went out with us. No tavern—Mr Price a merchant in the village gave us dinner at his house & spoke in his store. Commenced raining a little after noon, but quite a crowd collected. Continued to rain till night. After speaking drove back to Macomb & staid all night at Brookings tavern. Singleton speaks here tonight

Saturday Oct 9 1852 Raining pretty hard and has been all night. Immediately after breakfast Singleton & myself started for the school house in 4 N: 1W. Jno: Hail piloted or we would never have found the way. It was 16 miles distant—We arrived before noon—Stopped at Esqr Husted's near by. Neither he nor his wife were at home, but we got dinner, and after dinner spoke at the school house. Had a pretty good turn out

Then drove to Lownd's school house in 5 N. 1 W, 6 miles distant—Still raining—after dark when we got there, and the people were already assembled, and the house lighted up.

Drove right to the school house without supper, & addressed the audience for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Hail, Singleton & self went home with Mr Lownds, who lives near by, and Miss Lownds gave us comfortable supper & excellent beds.

Good quarters—Mrs Lownds not at home.

Had a very fair turn out of people at the school house, and glad I came

Sunday Oct 10 1852 Left Mr Lownds for Macomb—Stopped an hour at Capt Ross' who lives on the prairie near him.

Reached Macomb before noon—stopped at Brookings' tavern, & rested balance of day. After supper I called at John Hail's

to see his wife, who was a Miss McAlister of Ky, and whose mother was a Miss Cook, a cousin of Mrs B.

Cleared off to day. After noon very bright & pretty but fear it will not continue so long.

Monday Oct 11 1852 At one P. M. addressed the people at the Court house for a 2¼ hours—very large meeting—could not all get in the house

Was followed by Shields for an hour & quarter in a speech which was all twaddle—Old Federalist, U S Bank, Galphinism &c Said he was in favour of River & harbor improvements—Whig & democratic resolutions meant same thing &c. Gregg & Blackwell speak at night.

Has been a bright sunny day, but commenced raining just before night and is now very disagreeable

Tuesday Oct 12 1852 Heavy frost last night, & the sun out brightly this morning. About 6 o'clock Singleton & myself started for Quincy—we had sent our horses as far as Plymouth on yesterday, and drove out there this morning with pair from Macomb. Got breakfast at Bell's tavern, took our fresh horses & drove on to Quincy without stopping for dinner

The roads were very muddy, and we did not get home till about night. Found Mr White & Lady from Perry at my house

Wednesday Oct 13 1852 Mass whig meeting began to day—Morning favourable. Procession formed & marched to the stand in the public square, and after transacting some preliminary business adjourned till 2 P. M. At 2 reassembled & heard a speech of great power & beauty from Gov Bebb.<sup>1</sup> He was followed by Linder. Rain commenced falling about the time Bebb commenced speaking & continued till near night, but the vast multitude stood unmoved & listened When Linder concluded we adjourned till night to meet at Kendalls Hall Immense crowd in attendance—Over 1000 persons present. No more could get in—Blackwell made a short speech & was followed by Majr Wright of St Louis in a most brilliant speech. Had some good whig songs from Van Horn of Keokuk and adjourned

<sup>1</sup>William Bebb, 1802-1873. Governor of Ohio, 1846-1848; lawyer and Whig and Republican politician.

Singleton addressed the people at the Court House at same time

Bebb & his son staying with us—30 or 40 dined with us, & 15 stayed all night.

Have had a glorious day

\*Thursday Oct 14 1852 St. Louis delegation arrived last night. Procession this morning presentation of banners &c. Large crowd assembled in the square. I addressed them from 11 till 1 O'clock

After dinner addressed by Gov Bebb. Some short speeches made by others & then adjourned till night to meet at Kendalls Hall. Ladies & boys out & both addressed by Majr Wright—Judge Robins followed & the meeting then adjourned putting an end to our mass meeting. Every thing has gone off finely—the meeting has been very enthusiastic & we all part in high spirits

\*Friday October 15 1852 Gov Bebb & son, Singleton other friends left us this morning. Having an appointment at Marceline, I got horse & buggy of Pinkham—took Jim Stewart with me, & left home at 10 Oclock to meet it. Stopped at a tavern kept by Dr Owings in Marceline, and after made a speech—Took supper with Esqr Jenkins, and then went on to Lima—stopped at Pollard's tavern, and at candle light addressed the people of Lima—Had pretty day, and a very good turnout

Saturday Oct 16 1852 Left Lima & drove to Columbus, and after dinner made a speech to the people

Remarkably fine day, and very respectable audience.

After speaking came on to Clayton where I arrived just at night. Stopped at Bealls tavern, and am rejoiced that I have no speech to make to night

\*Sunday Oct 17 1852 Singleton sent Wallace this morning to Clayton with the carriage for me, and between 10 & 11 I started for Mount Sterling where I arrived at 1. Stopped at Van Tassels tavern—got dinner—then walked over to Singletons, and he and I started for Rushville by way of Lagrange. At dark got to Jimmy Bows between Lagrange & Rushville

where we staid all night. Jimmy is an Irish Catholic democrat, but promises to go the whig ticket. He lives in a cabin with a single room, but genuine hospitality compensated the want of many other things

Monday Oct 18 1852 Left Jimmy Bows and came to Rushville Stopped at Aldens, but dined at Blackwells

After dinner Gov Bebb addressed the people in the room over Wilsons store—Large meeting & fine speech—

Linder is here but would not speak. I have made two speeches here before, & Bebb was the only one delivered.

I am here for purpose of attending court, but Minshall<sup>1</sup> is sick—No court will be held, and I continue on the campaign tomorrow

Tuesday Oct 19 1852 Singleton & myself, Blackwell & Bagby went up to Littleton where I addressed the people in afternoon. Good turn out—ladies present—Dined at Dr Windows.

All went onto Brooklyn where I spoke again at night. House full—Ladies present.

We stopped at Manloves tavern, but Singleton & I staid all night with Lewis

Wednesday Oct 20 1852 Left Brooklyn & came to Mt. Sterling to dinner. Met with Morris Dunn at Singletons, and hope I have secured his support.

After dinner put Singletons old Jake in my buggy & started home. Staid all night with Patrick Doyle, and believe that he & Langdon another Irishman who was there, will both support me.

The day has been very warm

Thursday Oct 21 1852 After breakfast left Doyles for home. Stopped at Clayton & had old Jake shod Dined at Columbus & reached home before night—Found brother Milton & family at my house

<sup>1</sup>William A. Minshall. Circuit judge since 1848; he died November 5, 1852.



\*Friday Oct 22 1852 At home—Asbury<sup>1</sup> & family Miss Bushnell, Miss Putnam Mr Lee & Mr Sawyer took tea with us—The weather has been delightful for days past, Indian summer

\*Saturday Oct 23 1852 Remained at home till the afternoon, then started for Calhoun County on board the Golden Era. Large delegation from Keokuk & Burlington on their way to St Louis to attend rapids Convention

Between one and two Oclock at night reached Hamburg. Stopped with Mr Bartlett who keeps tavern in John Shaws<sup>2</sup> old house The day has been fine and the night beautiful

Sunday Oct 24 1852 Have spent the day quietly at Hamburg, dividing my time between reading & rambling in the woods

Monday Oct 25 1852 Crossed over to Hardin in Thos Poors two horse wagon, in company with himself, James Prewet & others. Took dinner at Chiles, and after dinner Richardson & myself addressed the people for one hour each at Court house. Left Hardin at 4 P. M.; returned to Hamburg & staid all night at Bartlett's

Tuesday Oct 26 1852 Got a horse from James Prewet, an old buggy from Bartlett, and a youth by the name of Boothe to drive me, & came to Bellevue, where I arrived to dinner & stopped at Mr Walls. Rained some last night, and has sprinkled a little this morning. Late in the afternoon rained quite briskly—Spent the balance of the day & remained all night at Walls—Weather still quite warm

Wednesday Oct 27 1852 Rode six miles on horse back to Bayville, and carried my carpet bag hanging on the pommel of the saddle. Esqr Stark came with me to take the horse back. In afternoon Richardson & self spoke for an hour each, and then came on ten miles to Atlas where we spoke again at night.

<sup>1</sup>Henry Asbury, 1810-1896. Came to Illinois in 1834; studied law with Browning; admitted to the bar in 1837; 1849, register of the Quincy land office; 1864-1865 provost marshal of Quincy district; Whig and then Republican.

<sup>2</sup>John Shaw. Political boss of Pike County in the early twenties. Nicholas Hansen was unseated in the House of Representatives in 1823 to bring in Shaw's vote to carry the resolution for a constitutional convention to introduce slavery.

I rode Merrick Bush's horse from Bayville to Atlass, and he came in buggy with Richardson

I stopped at Mrs Sapps tavern & got supper before speaking, for I had had no dinner

\*Thursday Oct 28 1852 Came to Washington with Hatch who had come for me in a buggy from Pittsfield. About one O'clock when I arrived and Col Richardson was speaking. He had intimated to me last night that this was to be an exclusively democratic meeting, and that it might not be acceptable for me to speak. All this week are his appointments which I am attending, but they choose to consider this too democratic for me to speak at—altho about one third of those in attendance were whigs, and they, and most of the democrats were anxious for me to speak. But Richardson, Donaldson, Wike & others thought I should not, and as it was the Cols own appointment, I did not, of course insist upon it, and did not speak.

We came on to Barry—I stopped at Elish Hurts and got my supper—(had had no dinner) & went home with Dr Baker and staid all night. Spent a pleasant evening with Mrs Baker & Mrs Jerome Rained considerably last night, and a little through the day—Continues very warm.

\*Friday Oct 29 1852 Warm & cloudy with occasional rain After dinner the people assembled in the upper story of Shasteds school house—quite a crowd—ladies present. We spoke an hour each. Richardson beginning—When I had spoken just half an hour it was announced that the floor was giving way & it would be necessary to leave the building. We thereupon adjourned to the yard, and I concluded out of doors. This was Richardsons meeting, and the democrats did not want me to speak, but in very shame had to consent.

Hatch & myself dined at Dr Bakers.

After the speaking was over Hurt took his two horse carriage with old man Barney to drive, and we came on to Kinderhook—Stopped at Churchill's tavern, and at Candle lighting we spoke at the school house above Cooks for a half hour each Not a great many out, but I am glad I have followed Richardson My presence has gratified & inspirited the whigs

Thursday  
Oct 28  
1852

Friday  
Oct 29  
1852

Saturday Oct 30 1852 Much colder than yesterday but still drizzling rain. Almon Churchill sent me on with his horse & buggy & little son to Payson, where I arrived a little after 10 & stopped at Yinglings

\*After dinner Richardson & self spoke for an hour each. I then came on home in a buggy furnished by Yingling. Lewis drove me up. After dark when I got home. Attended large whig meeting on the steps of Court House—Jansen<sup>1</sup> spoke in German I made apology but did not speak

\*Sunday Oct 31 1852 At home. Brother Miltons family & Miss Martha Putnam at my house.

Attended Church morning and evening

Monday Nov 1 1852 Large whig meeting at night—Formed procession at Court House & marched out near corner of 8th & State streets where I made a speech from the top of a hogshead to 500 or 600 people—Jansen addressed them in German—Then returned to Court House where ten or a dozen more speeches were made—Adjourned about 11 Oclock very cloudy & raining some

Tuesday Nov 2 1852 Quite a good day. Election came off—Every thing quiet & peaceable Much larger vote polled than ever before, and we are beaten by the foreign vote—

The following is the result in the city<sup>2</sup>

|        | Scott     | Pierce    | Browning  | Richardson |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1 ward | 208       | 250       | 218       | 248        |
| 2 ward | 154       | 226       | 172       | 218        |
| 3 ward | 195       | 266       | 217       | 264        |
|        | <hr/> 557 | <hr/> 742 | <hr/> 607 | <hr/> 730  |

<sup>1</sup>F. W. Jansen. Born in Prussia in 1815; came to St. Louis, 1834, and Quincy, 1836; set up as cabinet maker.

<sup>2</sup>The total returns were Richardson 9,018, Browning 8,397; charges of nativism against Scott had deflected the foreign vote more than usual from the Whig ticket.

Wednesday Nov 3 1852 Nothing particular. The elections have gone against us every where that we have heard from

Scott is beaten—it fills me with despondency to see such a man as Pierce elevated to the highest office on earth. Yet I do not despair, I know that we, the whigs, are contending for the immutable principles of Liberty, Truth, & justice, and I still have a trustful hope that truth will ultimately prevail

I am beaten by the foreign vote. It could not have been carried against at any other time. Had no Presidential election pending I would have been elected easily Genl Scott has beaten me. I would have been gratified at success, but my greatest grief at defeat is on account of my friends.

But I have made the canvass of the district without descending to any little means or low vulgarities—Have preserved my self respect, and satisfied my friends, and better friends a man never had I will try and bear it like a man

\*Thursday Nov 4 1852 Gloomy day. At work in office—

Miss Martha Blatchford & Morris Collins married this evening. Miss Putnam & myself started out in the buggy with old Jake, but so dark we were compelled to return Has rained heavily most of the evening—is very muddy & very dark.

Friday Nov 5 1852 At work in office Dark, cloudy day Raining most of the time

Saturday Nov 6 1852 At work in office. Dark, cloudy day, with occasional rain—

Sunday Nov 7 1852 Bright sunny day. Attended Church in the morning & evening. Alex Pearson took tea with us, and he and Miss Putnam went to Church with me at night—

The day has been very pretty, but quite cool, and has every appearance of frost to night.

Monday Nov 8 1852 At work in office and attending Court, which has not yet adjourned

Early in the morning commenced raining, and soon became half snow, and has been quite cold all day, raining & snowing at intervals

Wednes-  
day Nov  
3 1852

\*Tuesday Nov 9 1852 Cold cloudy day. Argued Ch'y case in Court—

Sister Ann & children intended to leave on boat this evening, but did not get off, and after night she was taken so unwell I had to call in a physician

Wednesday Nov 10 1852 Bushnell started this morning for Detroit on business connected with the construction of Rail road from here to Galesburg—About 8 Oclock this morning commenced snowing, and fell very heavily for several hours, but disappeared almost as fast as it fell—and a while after night turned to rain

We have but little frost up to this time, but an unusual amount of wet, cloudy weather. Nothing was wilted in the garden until two days ago

Thursday Nov 11 1852 Raining this morning when I awoke, and continued without intermission till 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  Oclock A. M. ~~dark & foggy~~ when it changed to Snow, which fell heavily for an hour, and continued a mixture of rain & snow for some time longer, till near night when it turned cold & commenced freezing

This evening I took up my tube roses and tiger flowers, tho the tops were still green. It had become so cold I was afraid to risk them out all night

Friday Nov 12, 1852 Very cold this morning—Every thing hard frozen—Ground firm enough to bear a wagon & team. Continued cold & cloudy all day

Saturday Nov 13 Very cloudy, but some thing milder than yesterday Thawing a little

Sunday Nov 14 Cold day—Attended Church morning & night with Miss Putnam who is staying with us. Mr Marks preached in morning—some stranger at night

Monday Nov 15 1852 At work in office—Cold cloudy day About 9 O clock at night commenced snowing

Tuesday Nov 16 Snowing this morning—Fell to depth of 3 or 4 inches and about 10 A. M. ceased, and became much warmer—Democrats had illumination at night—Poor affair Between 9 & 10 at night Coolbaugh arrived on Steamer Creole on way



from St. Louis, & brother Miltons family left with him for Burlington. Ice running—Dr Smith of Lexington & Elisha Warfield took tea with us this evening

Wednesday Nov 17 1852 At work in office. Still cold & cloudy

Thursday Nov 18 Cold & cloudy. Ice running—Steamers New England. New Lucy & Die Vernon all arrived here from St Louis & discharged freight & passengers at this place declining to go any higher. Mrs Conn who was on her way to Keokuk stopped at our house. Every thing is hard frozen, & snow lying several inches deep on the ground.

Friday Nov 19 1852 Cleared off last night and hard white frost. Sun has come out handsomely this morning, but continues very cold. Thawed some during the day. In afternoon Kate Kearny came up, & intending to get to Keokuk, if she could, Mrs Conn left on her

Saturday Nov 20 Quite cold this morning—Has not moderated—Cloudy again and threatening snow. Gentlemen from Hancock inform me the snow is now from 10 to 15 inches deep there Commenced snowing again awhile after night

Sunday Nov 21 1852 Snowing this morning and has been most of the night, but not freezing—occasionally a mixture of rain—but in the afternoon snow fell very heavily for an hour or two Attended Church in morning with Mrs Browning—at night with Miss Putnam

Monday Nov 22 Cloudy, but not freezing—Heavy fog & snow melting away continued cloudy & thawing all day Several boats arrived yesterday & to day

Tuesday Nov 23 1852 Still cloudy, but mild & thawing. Sleighing pretty good, but the snow gradually diminishing

Mrs Browning, Miss Putnam & self took tea at Mr Marks

Wednesday Nov 24 Cloudy, foggy & thawing—Snow passing away, and the streets becoming very muddy again

Thursday Nov 25 Cloudy—Becoming a little colder, but streets very muddy—Thanksgiving day—Miss Putnam & self attended Mr Marks church Asbury & family dined with us.

Friday Nov 26 1852 Cold, cloudy & hard frozen—At work in office as usual

Saturday Nov 27 Bushnell got home last night, and has an arrangement completed for the construction of the central military tract rail road—that is the road from here to Galesburg, and thence on to Chicago Sun shining to day, but quite cold

\*Sunday Nov 28 1852 Bright morning—Sun shining & thawing—I drove out to Capt Sternes to see him, having heard that he was very ill with typhoid fever. Found him quite low, but improving—took my boy Wm out with me in the buggy—Returned same evening, and at night Mrs B & self attended Church

Monday Nov 29 Large white frost this morning, but cloudy day, tho' thawing a little. Singleton in Town & dined with me. He, Williams, Bushnell, Jonas & Lee took supper with me

Tuesday Nov 30 1852 White frost, & bright beautiful day. Singleton took breakfast with us—then started for Mt. Sterling, taking Miss Martha Putnam with him

Wednesday Decr 1 1852 White frost—The morning very bright & genial, but before noon the sky was overcast with clouds, and the day became damp and chilly threatening rain

Thursday December 2 Clear & bright again this morning, and very warm. Thawing all day—have never seen the streets so muddy Mrs Browning & self went out to Esqr Asburys to supper. Just after night commenced raining, and an excessively dark night. We drove home about 11 O'clock through excessively muddy roads, but old Jake brot us safely

Friday Decr 3 1852 A very dark, cloudy day with an occasional drizzle.

Saturday Decr 4 A little cooler than yesterday, but not cold enough to freeze. Very dark & cloudy Mrs B & self took tea at Mr Langes with Mr Harkey the Lutheran minister

Sunday Decr 5 Warm cloudy day. Attended Church. Alex Pearson came home with us to dinner, and he & I went again at night

Monday Decr 6 1852 Much colder than yesterday, but not freezing—cloudy, & threatening snow

Tuesday Decr 7 Snowing heavily this morning, continued to fall till about 10 A. M.—then ceased, being 8 or 10 inches deep

Wednesday Decr 8 Dark, cloudy day—About half inch more snow fell

Thursday Decr 9 Still cloudy & threatening snow. Mrs Gillman dined with us, and at night she & I attended the first of the course of the Library lectures at Kendall's Hall, by W. S. Lee Esqr

Friday Decr 10 1852 Dark, cold cloudy day threatening  
~~Mr~~ Mrs & Miss Roosevelt  
snow.

\*Saturday Decr 11 Still cloudy & threatening snow. Mr, Mrs & Miss Roosevelt came down today—Miss Mary to remain all winter & attend Mr Stebbens school. Roosevelt, Miss Mary & myself spent the evening at Mr Stebbins. Alex Pearson staid all night with us.

Sunday Decr 12 Several inches snow fell last night. Mary R & myself attended Church in the morning. Mr Mears preached. I went again at night. Mr & Mrs Roosevelt left on Kate Kearney just after night

\*Monday Decr 13 1852 Coldest morning of the season, but the sun is again shining a little.

River full of ice, and not likely to have any more boats for some time, tho two are up now.

\*Tuesday Decr 14 Very cold morning—River full of ice. In the afternoon moderated very much—Thawing, and I may possibly yet get a boat down the river on my way to Springfield where I expect to start on Thursday

\*Wednesday Decr 15 Bushnell & Asbury dined with me—I am getting ready to start to Springfield in morning

\*Thursday Decr 16 1852 Yesterday Mr Wheat and myself made our preparations to start to Springfield this morning. We had engaged a carriage of Pinkham intending to go across the country to Naples, but in the afternoon a boat came up, and we

concluded to await her return and go by Alton, expecting her to be down this morning. We have waited all day. It is now 7 O'clock at night—She has not yet come, and we may still have to go by land.

Very warm this morning—had every appearance of spring day. Thawing rapidly and very comfortable without fire, but about one O'clock a change took place, and soon began to freeze.

~~Thursday~~

Before night the streets, which in the forenoon were very soft & sloppy, were hard & firm as pavements

Friday Decr 17 Clear, cold morning—wind blowing strongly from N. W. Mr Wheat, Mr Emmett, an engineer & myself started for Springfield at 9 O'clock, in one of Pinkham's carriages, a young man by the name of Sprouse driving us. The boat that passed up yesterday got shut up in the ice, and did not return, so that we have to go by land. Before we reached mill creek bridge, and about two miles West of Burton we lost a tire from one of the wheels of the carriage, and before we discovered had broken the fellows & spokes of the wheel to pieces. We walked on to Burton—took dinner—hired a common two horse lumber wagon of a Mr Childers, and drove on to Kingston, where we arrived 9 O'clock at night and stayed at Mayo's tavern till next morning

Saturday Decr 18 Still cold but calm. After breakfast resumed our journey—Dined at Perry & reached Naples between 4 & 5 O'clock. Ice running thick & heavy—Had to go far above Town to make a landing—Steamer Martha lying here. Cant get out on account of ice

Sunday Decr 19 1852 At the Franklin house in Naples—When I arrived last night, after a two days ride over excessively rough roads in a lumber wagon, I was so sore I could hardly move, and more weary than I remember ever to have been from traveling, but I had a good bed—a good nights rest, and am quite refreshed this morning. The cars do not go out till tomorrow, and we have to spend the Sabbath here. I have been to the Methodist church, and heard a very common place sermon

from a Circuit preacher. The morning was mild and thawing, but now in the afternoon is again quite cold, the wind having got round to N. W.

Monday Decr 20 1852 Left Naples at 11 O'clock this morning in the cars for Springfield, and arrived between 5 & 6 P. M. and took lodging at Mrs Enos. Messrs. Williams & Lawrence of Quincy, & Col Warren & David Smith of Jacksonville are also stopping here. Has been a tolerably cold day, and now at night the clouds are heavy, and a little snow falling.

Tuesday Decr 21 Have employed the day in writing letters & making some preparation for cases in court. Supreme Court in session, but Judge Drummond of U S Court, not yet arrived

Wednesday Decr 22 1852 At work in the Library preparing briefs—At night went to Presbyterian Church and heard a speech from the Rev Mr Holmes of St Louis in commemoration of the landing of the Pilgrims. It was only a common place production. I did not attend the supper although invited, as I doubt the propriety of observing such celebrations. They are understood to be exclusively by the descendents of the pilgrims, and tend to keep up mere sectional distinctions and divisions. National days should be observed, for instance 4th July, 22nd. Feby, thanksgiving &c. In these all can participate and each feel that he has an equal share with every other, and they contribute to the growth and development of a healthy sentiment of patriotism

The day has been cold and dry, but moderated towards night, and before day thundered & rained heavily.

Thursday Decr 23 Warm, foggy drizzling day. Judge Drummond arrived last evening, and this afternoon we commenced the trial of the case of Northup vs Libby & Dougherty

Friday Dec 24 1852 Have been engaged in the Federal Court all day—completed the trial of Northup vs Libby & Dougherty—and also tried the case of Rowley vs McSpirit & Chandler, and Rowley vs Hogan Turned cold this morning & has been freezing most of the day—cloudy



Saturday Decr 25 Christmast, but dull Christmast for me, away from my home & those I love. Spent the morning at the Federal Court room examining cases, & reading law. At 1 p. m. went to dine at James Barrets.

Had a pleasant agreeable family dinner—old Mr Barret<sup>1</sup> & Mr & Mrs Fondy & myself constituting the guests—Toward evening returned to my boarding house & was not out again. About 8 O'clock this morning it commenced snowing & continued till the afternoon covering the ground to the depth of three or four inches. The day is quite cold—good tight winter

\*Sunday Decr 26 Attended Mr Dodge's church in the morning, and the annual meeting of the Bible society at Mr Hales Church in the evening. Very cold morning—Dry day and moderated towards night

Monday Decr 27 1852 Rained last night—Very warm this morning & thawing rapidly all day

Orville OBannon arrived this evening in the Alton cars on his way to Quincy. Has Cyrus Miller in charge, who for some two months has been absent from his family, they having no knowledge of where he was. He was sent in the fall, by Thayer, to New York to purchase goods, and has not been heard of since.

Was recently picked up in the Five points by Mr Pease's mission, provided for and sent on home. At St Louis fell into Orvilles charge. Turned cold last night and froze very hard. Tight this morning

Tuesday Decr 28 1852 Took Cyrus Miller to day to a clothing store & bought him a suit of clothes, and had him shaved & brushed up, and intend to start him on home in the morning

The day has been very bright and quite mild

Wednesday Decr 29 This morning Orville and Cyrus Miller left for Quincy—

A very pretty day—bright & mild, but clouded up towards night.

<sup>1</sup>James W. Barret, a pioneer settler in Sangamon County. His daughter Mary married William B. Fonday, a Springfield merchant.

Jack Grimshaw<sup>1</sup> arrived last night, and came here to board to day

Thursday Decr 30 Have argued in the Supreme Court to day the cases of Metcalfe vs Hess<sup>2</sup>—Wheat for Pltf, Edmonds & self for Deft—and Emmons vs Bishop<sup>3</sup>—Edmonds for Pltf  
Bishop

& self for Deft—

Day has been mild & pleasant Blackwell arrived to night

Friday Decr 31 This day closes the year. How solemn the hour—and with what profound reverence & gratitude should we acknowledge our obligations to our heavenly father for the abundant and undeserved mercies which have waited upon our steps through the revolving seasons

<sup>1</sup>Jackson Grimshaw, 1820-1875. Brother of William A. Grimshaw; settled at Pittsfield, 1843, as a lawyer, removing to Quincy, 1857; Republican candidate for Congress, 1856 and 1858; collector for the Quincy district, 1865-1869.

<sup>2</sup>Metcalfe vs. Hess, 14 *Illinois*, 128. The liability of an innkeeper for the death of a horse was the matter at issue in this case.

<sup>3</sup>Emmons vs. Bishop, 14 *Illinois*, 151. An ejectment case.

## 1853

Saturday, Jany 1 1853<sup>1</sup> This day begins a new year. May God in his mercy keep & protect me through all its dangers and disasters, and bring me in safety and peace to its close, and give me grace to live a more worthy virtuous & useful life than I have ever lived heretofore. Keep me from all sin—preserve me from sickness and disease, and from mental and physical infirmity, and protect me from all the dangers, perils and adversities of life—and purify my heart, and fill it with gratitude and adoration towards the Lord of the Universe In the forenoon I was engaged in the Supreme Court in the argument of the case of Stephenson vs Unkefer.<sup>2</sup> Court did not sit in the afternoon, & I appropriated it to calling on my friends. Paid my respects to them at Fondy's, Ridgely's, James Barret's, Lambs,<sup>3</sup> George Lowry's, Dr Heatons & Gov Mattisons.<sup>4</sup> Jno: Wood of Quincy & his son Joshua, Jo: Gillespie & Chas Hodges arrived this evening and took lodgings here. The day has been pleasantly cold & cloudy—Ground hard frozen & walking good

Sunday Jany 2 1853 Beautiful morning, warm & clear, but before night clouded up, and just after night turned cold and a

<sup>1</sup>The diary for 1853 is written in a book bound in tan leather, with 128 pages with faint ledger ruling, all used. Inside the front cover is written:

Thursday 26 May 1853 Placed my poney at Pinkhams to be trained To pay \$2 per week \*and took him away Friday June 24 1853

<sup>2</sup>Stevenson vs. Unkefer, 14 *Illinois*, 103. The court held in this case that it was not usury to charge twelve and one half per cent interest for a loan involving considerable risk.

<sup>3</sup>James L. Lamb, 1800-1873, a Kaskaskia merchant, born in Pennsylvania, who had come to Springfield in 1832.

<sup>4</sup>Joel A. Matteson, 1808-1873. Came to Illinois in 1834; contractor on the Illinois and Michigan Canal; served in Illinois Senate, 1842-1852; governor, 1853-1857; accused of frauds in funding canal scrip and compelled to reimburse the state; connected at various times with both Illinois Central and Chicago and Alton railroads; Democrat, latterly a supporter of Douglas.

little snow fell. Attended Mr Dodges church in the morning. Took tea at Ridglys & went to church with Julia again at night.

Monday Jan'y 3 Snow fell last night to the depth of an inch or two. Quite a cold day. Legislature met today. Gov Reynold's<sup>1</sup> elected Speaker James & William Brown came to day and took lodging here

Tuesday Jan'y 4 1852 Fine, dry day—nothing particular

Wednesday Jan'y 5 Beautiful day. Legislature reelected Douglass to Senate

Thursday Jan'y 6 Warm pretty day—Nothing particular.  
\*Took tea at American House with Mrs Smith

Friday Jan'y 7 Very warm sunny day. Tried & submitted case Northup vs Harrison, & closed evidence in Bayne vs Himminover U S Court

Saturday Jan'y 8 1853 Warm day & raining in afternoon. A criminal case is being tried in U. S. Court, which has suspended the argument in the case I had on trial

Sunday Jan'y 9 Went to church with Jack Smith<sup>2</sup> & his wife Very warm day.

Monday Jan'y 10 In the afternoon went with Mrs Smith & Mrs Lathrop to witness the inauguration of Gov Mattison. He was sworn into office in a bungling manner by Judge Treat, and then took his seat whilst the clerk of the house of representatives read his address or message to the two houses of the Genl Assembly.

At night I attended in the hall of the house, and heard a lecture from Ralph Waldo Emmerson on the Anglo Saxon. His language was chaste, strong and vigorous—much of his thought just—his voice good—his delivery clear, distinct and deliberate—his action nothing. He limned a good picture of an Englishman,

<sup>1</sup>John Reynolds, 1789-1865. One of the most famous of early Illinois politicians; justice of Supreme Court, 1818-1825; governor, 1830-1834; elected congressman, 1834, 1838, 1840; Democrat after 1830; supported Buchanan against Douglas; sympathized with the South in the war; has written himself down an ass in several volumes on early Illinois.

<sup>2</sup>J. Taylor Smith, a merchant and banker, son-in-law of N. H. Ridgely.

and gave us some hard raps for our apishness of English fashions & manners

Tuesday Jany 11 1853 Heard Emmerson's lecture in the hall of the House of Rep: upon power. He is chaste & fascinating, and whilst I cannot approve all his philosophy, I still listen with delight to his discourses. They contain much that is good, and are worth hearing. After the lecture I attended a supper in the Senate Chamber given by the ladies of the first Presbyterian Church, and spent a pleasant evening. The weather is still very cloudy & disagreeable—the mud making the streets almost impassable.

Wednesday Jany 12 1853 To day the members of the Legislature have gone in a body to Alton on the Rail road. I argued the case of Bayne vs Himminover in the U S Court, and tried the case of Cofield vs Cather.

Went to Ridgleys to supper, and attended Miss Julia to the State House to hear Emmersons third lecture on culture

No improvement in the weather

Thursday Jany 13 1853 Commenced the trial of Mattison vs Wright<sup>1</sup> in U S Court—

No change in the weather—cloudy & very muddy

Friday Jany 14 Trying Mattison vs Wright Weather same as yesterday

Saturday Jany 15 Concluded trial of Mattison vs Wright—verdict & judgment for Pltf

Knew from the beginning this would be the result produced by the decisions of the Judge. Am preparing it for Supreme Court

Sunday Jany 16 1853—Attended Mr Dodges church in morning—Pleasant day.

Monday Jany 17 Bright sunny day. Went to Butlers to supper & spent an hour or so with Miss Mary Jane Warfield, who came up with James Brown to day

<sup>1</sup>Mattison vs. Wright. Browning argued this case when it was brought up to the United States Supreme Court. See entries for January 15, 1852, December 6, 1855, *ante*, 35, *post*, 211.



Tuesday Jan'y 18 Finished bill exceptions in the case of Mat-tison vs Wright on which I have been engaged several days

Another lovely day

Wednesday Jan'y 19 1853 Commenced trial of Robinson vs Alonzo Gard in U. S. Court Grimshaw & Blackwell for Plaintiff Another fine, sunny day. Took supper at Ridgleys

Thursday Jan'y 20 Still progression with case of Robinson vs Gard. Spent the evening at Mr Dodges. Weather continues fine

Friday Jan'y 21 Concluded case of Robinson vs Gard—verdict for Deft

Still warm & sunny

Saturday Jan'y 22 1853 Tried the case of Brainard vs Dixon —Judgt of Pltf Cloudy, misty, muddy, cool day

Sunday 23 Attended Mr Dodges church in the morning—At night went to Dr Smith's with Miss Warfield and heard him preach fine sermon on liquor drinking in general

Monday 24 Argued case of Prentiss vs Wilson & Greer<sup>1</sup> in Supreme Court

Tuesday Jan'y 25 1853 Commenced trial of case of Holloway vs Frink, Walker & Co in U S Court—Lincoln & self for Pltf, Logan<sup>2</sup> & Edwards for Deft—Weather has been cool & dry for several days. Quite cold tonight

Wednesday Jan'y 26 About as cold a day as we have had this season <sup>7</sup> Concluded the trial of Holloway vs Frink, Walker & Co

Dined at Fondy's. \*At night went with Miss Warfield & Miss Ulric to party at Ridgelys—Passed a pleasant evening

Thursday Jan'y 27 1853 Fine, cool, clear day. Tried in U S Court, Peters vs Malone, & commenced Duval et als vs Wills et als—and Stow vs Butler—took supper at Butlers

\*Friday Jan'y 28 Day mild & balmy as Spring At work in U S Court. Took tea with Mrs Smith at American & went with her to exhibition of Deaf & dumb at State House

<sup>1</sup>Prentice vs. Wilson, 14 *Illinois*, 90. Ejectment case.

<sup>2</sup>Judge Stephen T. Logan, 1800-1880. Came to Illinois, 1832; circuit judge, 1835-1837, 1839; served several terms in the General Assembly; Lincoln's law partner, 1841-1844; Whig and then Republican; one of the most able lawyers of Illinois in his day.

Saturday Jan'y 29 Tried Sorsby vs Hinman & disposed of Cofield vs Potter

Lovely day

Sunday Jan'y 30 1853 As beautiful a day as ever came in winter.

Went with Mrs Sophie Smith<sup>1</sup> to Mr Dodges church in the morning, & to the baptist church at night to hear Mr Peck,<sup>2</sup> who delivered a most admirable temperance lecture

Monday Jan'y 31. Lawrence & Grimshaw left this morning—Williams & myself tried the case of Hobbs vs Frazer, & wound up most of our other business.

Day fine, and in the afternoon I walked out to Ridgely's Green House, and went to his house to tea

Tuesday Feby 1 1852 Have been engaged in preparing Bill of exceptions in case of Bayne vs Graham, & winding up business in general. The day has been warm—in the afternoon became cloudy & now threatens rain

\*Wednesday Feby 2 Made a conclusion of my business in Springfield to day, and expect to leave for home in the morning Attended party at Ben Edwards<sup>3</sup> at night

Thursday Feby 3 1853 Closed my business in the Courts this morning—took leave of my friends and at 12 O'clock left Springfield on the cars for Alton. The morning had been mild, but soon after we left Springfield it turned cold & commenced snowing, and continued till night. Arrived at Alton before night and a little after 7 o'clock in the evening got on board the Steamer Kate Kearney for Quincy The River was free from ice

Friday, Feby 4 1853 Very cold. The ice began to come down upon us this morning, and before night was running very heavily. Strong N W wind blowing & day very cold; but the

<sup>1</sup>Wife of J. Taylor Smith or Jack Smith.

<sup>2</sup>John Mason Peck, 1789-1858. Came to Illinois a Baptist missionary in 1817; founder of Shurtleff College, and organizer of Sunday schools, Bible societies, etc., throughout the state; publisher of a guide to emigrants and a gazetteer of Illinois.

<sup>3</sup>Benjamin S. Edwards, 1818-1886. Son of Ninian and brother of Ninian W. Edwards; lawyer; first a Whig, later a Democrat.

boat continued her course, and we landed in safety at Quincy about 7 P. M.

Saturday Feby 5 1853 The coldest morning of the season.

\*At home with bad cold.

Sunday Feby 6 Cold day. Did not go out, but kept my room on account of a cold

\*Monday Feby 7 1853 Has moderated very much & is a bright, beautiful day

Am regularly at work in office Mrs Church & Alex Pearson dined with us.

\*Tuesday Feby 8 Coldest day of the season, but very bright  
At work in office

\*Wednesday Feby 9 Pretty day. Moderating At work in office

\*Thursday Feby 10 1853 Beautiful day. Mrs Browning and self dined at Cox's. At night attended Library lecture at Kendalls Hall, by Mr Marks. Layard & Nineveh

Friday Feby 11 Another beautiful day. Mrs Browning & self took tea at Mr Williams

Saturday Feby 12 Weather still fine. At work in office

Sunday Feby 13 1853 Attended Mr Marks church & heard Mr Hale preach in the morning & again at night A bright, but cold & windy day

Monday Feby 14 Pretty day—At work in office—Attended  
15  
church at night with Mrs B & heard Mr Hale

Tuesday Feby 15 Day cloud In afternoon rained & just before night turned to Snow. Steam boat up this evening  
Attended church at night with Mrs B & heard Mr Hale

Wednesday Feby 16 1853 Several inches snow this morning—but bright, pretty day, and melting away rapidly \*Singleton stayed all night with me

Thursday Feby 17 Mild, sloppy day. Mrs B & self & Cox's & Erskines dined at McFaddens. At night attended Church with Mrs B & heard Mr Hale

Friday Feby 18 Pretty cool. Rev Mr Hale & Marks & Mr & Mrs Collins took tea with us

Saturday Feby 19 1853 Still quite cool—Hard at work in the office

\*Sunday Feby 20 Pretty day—Attended Church morning & evening & heard Mr Hale preach

\*Monday Feby 21 Warm day. Rained gently at night. Attended Church with Mrs B & heard Mr Hale—Heavy fog after night

Tuesday 22 Turned cold last night. Frozen this morning—Quite a cool day, but sun set clear with promise of fine weather

Wednesday Feby 23 1853 A bright, pretty day but cold—At work in the office

Thursday Feby 24 Pretty day—Dr Blatchford & lady, Mr & Mrs Erskine, Mr & Mrs McFadden, Mr & Mrs Asbury & Miss Manning dined with us.

Friday Feby 25 A little snow fell last night, but the morning is bright, warm & beautiful. Pleasantest day of the season

Saturday Feby 26 Another glorious day

\*Sunday Feby 27 1852 Warm, but cloudy. Between 10 & 11 A. M. left home for St. Louis Took passage on Steamer McKee. Rained at night & became much cooler than it was

Monday Feby 28 Much cooler than yesterday—Arrived at St Louis in forenoon—raining. At night attended Peoples Theatre, & saw Miss Julia Bennett in the jealous wife Miserable performance Left in disgust

Tuesday March 1 1853 Bright, pretty day—In St Louis  
 Feby  
 doing errands. At night attended Bates Theatre & saw Mr & Mrs Barney Williams—the one as an Irishman, the other as a yankee girl. They are fine comic actors & I laughed till I was weary

Wednesday March 2 Colder than yesterday, but bright & clear. \*At 4 P. M. left St. Louis on Kate Kearney for home

Thursday March 3 Arrived at home 5 P. M. Bright day but cold

\*Friday March 4 1853 Very pretty day, but quite cool. Mr. Pierce is to be inaugurated as President to day, and I fear a new and dangerous system of policy is to be entered upon. At night attended Library lecture at Kendalls Hall & heard Mr Leighton of Palmyra, on the probabilities of the perpetuity of our government. A good lecture.

Saturday March 5 Bright, but cool day. The Savages, Grodfreys, Miss Turner &c took tea with us

Sunday March 6 1853 Snow fell to the depth of an inch or two last night, but the morning fair, the day mild, and it rapidly disappeared Attended Church in the morning About 4 P M took passage on Kate Kearney for Warsaw—Reached there at 9—Went home with Wagley and staid all night

Monday March 7 Got Brawner to send me out to Carthage in a buggy, where I arrived to dinner

Have stopped at Sawney Hamiltons—Have pretty good room to myself & hope to be comfortable

\*Tuesday March 8 1853 Attending Court at Carthage. Turned cold last night, and hard frozen this morning. By the middle of the forenoon it commenced snowing, with the wind from the N. E. and the snow has continued to fall and drift unremittingly ever since—the storm still progressing now at 9 Oclock at night

Wednesday March 9 Attending Court—Snow from four to eight inches deep, & cold and crisp under the feet—but the sun rose bright & clear & continued to shine thro the day, tho still cold.

Thursday March 10 1853 Attending Court. Cold & hard frozen this morning, & cloudy—Thawed some through the day—Commenced snowing about 5 P. M. and was still falling at dark

\*Friday March 11 Attending Court—Still cold & disagreeable—freezing hard at night & thawing some thro the day

Saturday March 12 Do Do

Sunday March 13 Very hard frozen this morning with wind from N W all day. Have kept my room and written to Mrs B and Bettie



\*Monday March 14 1853 Very cold. The sun rose clear and shone brightly all day, yet thawed but little. Attending Court again

Tuesday March 15 Very cold morning, but the day bright & more mild.

Attending Court thro the day

—//△≠∇ A∧∇┘# 'A ≠7∇∇7△A

Wednesday March 16 Day mild & warm, and Spring appears to be opening Attending Court

Thursday March 17 1853 Warm day—Thunder, lightning, and rain. Attending Court

\*Friday March 18. Very pretty day. Attended Court till 2 O'clock—Then left Carthage for Warsaw in Brawners trap—Reached Warsaw after sundown, & in half an hour took passage for home on Kate Kearney

Saturday March 19 Reached home to breakfast—Beautiful day. Wagley & Asbury dined with me.

\*Sunday March 20 1853 Pretty & pleasant day. Attended church in the morning—Misses Sally & Annie Smith went with us—

Monday March 21 Between 4 & 5 Oclock this morning took the stage for Pittsfield to attend Court—Breakfasted at Payson, dined at Barry, reached Pittsfield before night, & stopped at Grays tavern. Court commenced also at Quincy this morning, but I am obliged to be here for a few days. The day has been very pleasant

Tuesday March 22 Attending court in Pittsfield—Fine day

Wednesday March 23 1853 Attending Court in Pittsfield—Frozen this morning & quite cold, but a bright, pleasant day.

Thursday March 24 White frost this morning, and quite cool, but a clear, calm, pleasant spring day. Attending Court

Friday March 25 Warm cloudy day. Near night commenced raining, but very gently Attending Court

\*Saturday, March 26 1853 This morning at 4 O'clock I left Pittsfield in the stage for Quincy—breakfasted at Barry & dined at Payson, & reached home about 4 O'clock P. M.

The day has been cold, raw and windy.

Sunday March 27 Beautiful day. Attended church morning & evening

Monday March 28 Another beautiful day. Attending Court in Quincy Toward sundown Mrs B & self rode out to Coxs

Tuesday March 29 1853 Attending Court in Quincy

Wednesday March 30 Attending Court. Weather continues bright & warm—No need of fire

Thursday March 31 Hard at work in Court all day trying case of Wilson vs Walker, assault & battery. Very warm day

Attended party at Mr Erskine's in the evening

\*Friday Apl. 1 1853 Turned cold in the night, and continued quite cool through the day—Attending Court

Saturday Apl 2 Attending Court. Commenced raining in afternoon, & continued to fall a little at intervals through the night.

Sunday Apl 3 Rained a little during the day but not much. Attended Church in the morning and at night Mr Abernathy preached at night

Monday Apl 4 1853 Beautiful day. Mr M B Barr was in  
~~April 4~~  
 this morning and executed his will, which was witnessed by T S Mackoy & myself—& left with me for safe keeping Tom Mackoy left with me \$130 of which \$65 was cash, and \$65 currency, which I deposited with Flagg & Savage<sup>1</sup> to the credit of Elijah Barr, but am not certain whether it should have to his credit, or to that of one of his brothers

\*Tuesday Apl 5 Clear, windy & rather cool day. Court adjourned. At work in my garden kirbing flower beds

\*Wednesday Apl. 6 1853 Day bright & clear but windy; Set out roses obtained at C. M. Woods, and moved some daisies, polianthus &c

<sup>1</sup>Flagg and Savage. Bankers at Quincy since 1848.

Thursday Apl 7 Fine day. At work in the garden.

Friday Apl. 8—Warm day. At work in garden & office.  
Apricots in bloom

Saturday Apl 9 Another bright, beautiful day but a little cool. Set out ever greens, mountain ash, Calicanthus &c.

Sunday Apl 10 1853 Fine day—Attended church morning & evening.

Monday Apl. 11 After breakfast took the stage for Mt. Sterling—dined at Clayton and reached Mt. S about 4 p. m. Had several passengers in the stage—among others young Mr Stebins on his way to Rushville to visit his sister before leaving for California which he expects to do in a few days

Has threatened rain all day—thundered in afternoon, and sprinkled a little

\*Am at Van Tassels tavern

Tuesday Apl 12 1853 A very fine rain last night—still falling this morning and quite warm. Attending Court—hoping to get through with my engagements so as to take the stage for home to night

\*Left Mt Sterling at 8½ p. m. in the stage—Very dark, quite warm & raining a little. About a mile out stuck fast in a mud hole—passengers except two ladies had all to get out in mud about knee deep—but thus relieved the horses could not move the stage from its position. After groping about in the dark & Mud for some time we found some rails and by lifting with them at the wheels, and starting the horses at the same time we finally succeeded in getting out. Between midnight and day, just west of Booths, one side of the coach ran off a rail road embankment, and we were very near being overturned. Had again to get out, and assist in getting the coach back in to the road

Wednesday Apl. 13 Reached Columbus about sun rise—took breakfast, and came on home where I arrived about 11 a. m. Bot & set out a Deodar Cedar, three Junipers, 4 Hemlocks, & double yellow rose. Paid for the whole \$5

\*Thursday Apl 14 1853 Pretty cold day. At work in the office

Friday Apl. 15 At work in office. At night the whigs held a meeting at Kendalls Hall to nominate officers for the election to take place on Monday—Hall crowded—Jonas in the chair—Nominated John Wood for Mayor—Charles A Savage<sup>1</sup> for Alderman in N ward—X Flaise in Middle ward—George W Brown in S ward—& Andrew Stutte for Marshall—Capt Dunn, Wm Best & Stutte were the candidates. Nomination made on first ballot.

Saturday Apl 16 1853 Day pleasant. At work in Office till dinner & waiting the balance of the day for a boat to go upon to Oquawka where Court commences on Monday—Got on board the Golden Era at 12 O'clock at night—

Sunday Apl. 17—Had not reached Keokuk this morning, tho the river is in very fine stage, & the boat a good one, but heavily freighted Day fair & very pleasant—\*Reached Oquawka at 12 O'clock at night & stopped at Barnes Tavern

Monday April 18 1853 Attending Court in Oquawka Day rather cool & cloudy

Tuesday Apl. 19 Attending Court. Rained last night, and part of this day

Wednesday Apl. 20 Very bright, pleasant morning.

This morning Judge Skinner overruled a motion made for continuance by the McCormacks two young men of Hancock County indicted for cattle stealing. In my opinion the affidavit was entirely sufficient, and the application should have been granted, but the Judge refused it, and in doing so took occasion to review the history of the case, and to remark in the presence of the jury & bystanders that he did not believe their affidavit, and had no idea they expected to procure witnesses even if the opportunity was afforded I was indignant that remarks so calculated to create prejudice, forestall opinion & prevent a fair & impartial trial should have been thus publicly & causelessly made by one who should as zealously guard individual as public right. The law presumes them innocent, but it is manifest that the Judge

<sup>1</sup>Charles A. Savage. Born in Maine; graduate of Bowdoin, 1837; came to Quincy in 1839; lawyer and agent for Munn Land Co.; banker since 1848; interested in various railroad projects.

presumes them guilty, and thinks it therefore justifiable to force them prematurely into trial, & secure a conviction.

I am not one who thinks the world is retrograding, & human nature daily sinking deeper in depravity, but there has certainly been a lamentable deterioration in the judiciary of Illinois within the last few years both mentally & morally, and I cannot witness such things as occurred to day without well grounded alarm.

Thursday Apl. 21 1853 Attending Court. Heavy rain this afternoon.

\*Friday Apl 22 Cloudy day. Have had a hard days work. Tried two indictments vs Hugh & James McCormack for stealing cattle, and argued them both at length. Juries have both out for hours, but have not yet agreed. At 11 O'clock at night one of them brot in a verdict of guilty against both Defts, and affixed the punishment at one year in the penitentiary. The other not being able to agree was discharged and the case nol prosd. The was still another indictment against them which we expected to try tomorrow, but that was also nol: prosd: and court then adjourned

The Badger State, a little stern wheel boat was lying at the wharf on her way down, and at midnight I went aboard of her, and took passage for home

From this time till day was almost a continuous thunder storm with very heavy rain

Saturday Apl 23 1853 When I awoke this morning we were lying at Burlington. Now at 8 O'clock A. M. we are tied up some distance below—the storm being too heavy to admit of running. Has continued to thunder and rain heavily without intermission all morning.

The storm compelled us to lie by most of the morning, but the afternoon being calm we continued on our way & reached Keokuk about sundown

After night five or six gentlemen who were on board the boat, seated themselves at a table, about the size & form of an ordinary card table, for the purpose of inducing what is usually called "Spirit rappings". They requested me to take a seat with



them, and having never witnessed anything of the kind I did <sup>so.</sup> ~~so.~~ Rappings soon became very audible, and were always promptly given in reply to questions. After some time spent in asking & answering questions in this way the request was made that answers should be given by *tipping* the table, that is, elevating one side of it from the floor, instead of rapping on it, and that for an affirmative answer the table should be once lifted up, and let fall again, and that for a negative answer it should be repeated twice. Questions were then asked, and answers given in the manner desired.

I was prevailed upon to ask some questions. Among other things I asked "Is my mother living?" The two feet of the table on one side were instantly raised from the floor, or rather according to all appearance raised themselves as much as much as 3 or 4 inches, and fell back into their position again. "Is my father living?" The raising and falling was repeated twice in quick succession. These two answers were according to the fact, but others were given clearly erroneous. Upon a question being asked about a Mr Cary who was a deceased friend of one of the gentlemen present, the table was thrown violently from side to side, with the rocking motion of a cradle, six or eight times successively, and this was repeated every time Careys name was mentioned, and with such force that it could be distinctly heard all over the boat. The experiment was continued for about an hour. During all the time the persons around the table kept their hands resting gently upon it. Questions were responded to as readily when asked by one as another, and that whether the interrogator was seated at the table or only standing by as a spectator. I am entirely satisfied there was no trick or collusion about the matter, and whilst I discard all belief in the presence & agency of the spirits of the departed, I confess myself utterly unable to account for the phenomenon. The persons at the table were talking and laughing without restraint during all the time of the operation, but the movements of the table were only in response to questions asked, which seemed to indicate the presence of intelligence—and it certainly looked very strange to

see a table, quick as thought, rock itself to and fro without human agency, and was to me altogether inexplicable

About midnight the Kate Kearney came up & I went aboard of her

Sunday Apl 24 Left Keokuk this morning & reached home about noon. Has been very cloudy all day—quite cool & occasionally raining, a little

Monday Apl. 25 1853 After breakfast started in the stage for Rushville to attend Court—Judge Skinner & others in company. Dined at Clayton—reached Mt Sterling just at night & stayed at Needles tavern—Mild, beautiful day, but quite a frost in the morning

Tuesday Apl. 26 Came on to Rushville in the stage—Arrived at 10 A. M. and stopped at Aldens—Attending Court the rest of the day. Another lovely day, tho frost in the morning

Wednesday Apl. 27 1853 Fine warm day—Attending Court—At night was present at a vocal concert at the Presbyterian Church, given by one Mr Higgins & the young ones of Rushville generally

Thursday Apl 28 Attending Court—Has been raining most of the day—a succession of thunder storms Hay, Grimshaw & myself, and some others took tea at Capt Robertsons

Friday Apl. 29 Attending Court till 11 O'clock at night Pleasant day—Heavy rain last night

Saturday Apl. 30 1853 Attending Court—Completed trial of Chadsey vs Gilliawater late in afternoon, which we commenced yesterday morning—and after night adjourned Court till Court in course

Pleasant day

Hay, Grimshaw & myself have been boarding all the week at Aldens

Sunday May 1 1853 John Bagby & myself left Rushville together, in a livery stable carriage, for Macomb. Day warm & cloudy & roads very bad, but we got through about 2 O'clock & stopped at Brookings tavern. Thunder & heavy rain in the afternoon.

Monday May 2 Opened Court this morning, but in consequence of doubts as to the authority to hold it, a case was prepared for the Supreme Court to test the question & then adjourned till court in cours

Has rained all day—quite warm

\*Tuesday May 3 1853 At 9½ O'clock left Macomb in the Burlington Stage as the best method that offered of reaching home—the small streams being so swollen that it was doubtful whether the Quincy stage would arrive

The traveling was very bad as far as Blandonville, where we dined, but from thence to Schockokon were much better the rains having been much lighter. Reached the latter place at dusk—found Steamer Goldon State lying there, on her way down & went immediately on board

Wednesday May 4 1853 Rained steadily all night, and this morning we found ourselves at Dallas, only about 15 miles below where we were at dark. The boat has been receiving freight, chiefly corn, all night—Got home at 3 P. M.

\*Thursday May 5. At work in office Weather warm & cloudy

Friday May 6 Same as yesterday—Rained in afternoon

Saturday May 7. Same as yesterday. ~~Rained in afternoon~~

Sunday May 8 1853 A very bright, pretty morning, but some became cloudy & cool. Attended Presbyterian Church in the morning—Rev Mr Keep of Baptist Church preached.

\*Thunder & rain at night

Monday May 9 Cold, cloudy day, with slight showers at intervals

At work in office

Tuesday May 10 At work in office—Expect to go to St Louis tomorrow

Bright day, but quite cool—Fire necessary

Wednesday May 11 1853 At 9½ this morning Mrs Browning & self went aboard Steamer Die Vernon for St. Louis—Left Quincy about 11—Day cloudy & warm—At night Thunder, rain & very heavy hail storm.

Thursday May 12 Found ourselves at St Louis this morning—Went to Planters House to breakfast—Purchased carpets at Wilcox & McDowells Went to see the fat woman and fairy queen. One weighs 764 the other 60 lbs. The little one is perfectly symmetrical—very handsomely formed—finely developed—no deformity—sprightly. Sat on my knee & talked & laughed very pleasantly. Told me she was 32 yrs old—was married & had three children, & that her husband would be jealous if he saw her on my lap She is less than four feet high—he[r] head just reached my vest pocket Mrs B & self went to Majr Wrights to tea, and met company. I had severe attack of dysentary & was compelled to leave about 10 O'clock after hearing Miss Belinda Wright & Mr Hill sing some fine songs—

Friday May 13 1853. Met Ridgely & his wife at Planters House. Finished our shopping at 4 P. M. was on board Kate Kearney for home. Heard to day that Mr Jno Tillson died last night at Peoria of apoplexy. At 5 precisely left for Quincy

appe

\*Saturday 14 Reached home at 11½ A. M. Warm day & some rain towards night

Sunday 15 Very warm day. Rain in afternoon. Attended Church twice & heard Dr Blatchford morning & night

Monday May 16 1853 Very warm. Heavy rain, wind & thunder. At work in office Took tea at Mr Langs with two Mr Harkie's

Tuesday May 17 At work in office—Very warm day

Wednesday May 18. Attended the funeral of John Tillson Sr. The early morning was warm, but about 11 A M the wind got to N. W. and became very cold for the season. High wind prevailed till sometime in the night, & fire essential to comfort.

Thursday May 19 1853 Very cool morning, but bright, beautiful and pleasant day. At 10 A. M. Mrs B & self attended the marriage of P. P. Enos and Mrs Johnson, which took place at the Presbyterian Church. The ceremony was performed by Dr Blatchford, and was the most impressive & appropriate I ever heard. The happy united went home with us & remained

till half past 12, when they took passage on the packet for Keokuk, and falls of St. Anthony &c.

Friday May 20 1853 Beautiful day, but cool—At work in office

Saturday 21 Cool morning but warm day—At work in office

Sunday 22 Attended church—Heard Mr Johnson of Jacksonville preach in the morning & professor Post at night. Brisk rain in afternoon, and cool night

Monday 23. Bright day but cool. Dr Smith & family took tea with us

Tuesday May 24 1853 Bright day but cool At work in office

Wednesday 25 Same as yesterday

Thursday 26. Weather becoming more pleasant At work in office

Friday 27 Fine summer day At work in office

Saturday 28 Very warm. At work in office

Sunday, May 29 1853 Very warm. Attended church. Mr Hollister preached in morning & Mr Holyoke at night. Fine rain in afternoon

Monday May 30 Beautiful day, but fire necessary morning & evening At work in office

Tuesday 31 Very pretty day—At work in office. At 10 O'clock at night Mrs Browning, Mrs Asbury and Orville O'Bannon left for St Louis on board Steamer Die Vernon

Wednesday June 1 1853 Very warm summer day. After night heavy rain with thunder & lightning Had strawberries for tea first time this season.

Thursday June 2. Fine summer day. At 10 O'clock A. M. was at Lutheran Church in 7th Street to witness the marriage of Miss Dolly Lange & Revd. Mr Harkey—Were married by Revd. Mr Keep.

In afternoon Miss Sarah White & Miss Ogden of Perry came & staid all night

Friday June 3. Pleasant day. Miss White, Miss Ogden &



Miss Guyer to dinner. Miss W to tea—Then went to Mr Furness'

Saturday June 4 1853 Warm cloudy morning. Heavy rain before 10 O'clock. Mrs Browning & Mrs Asbury got home from St Louis on Die Vernon about 11 O'clock.

Sunday June 5 At 10 A M left home to attend Hancock Court. Came to Warsaw on Steamer Jennie Deans, and staid with them at Roosevelts afternoon & night

Monday June 6 Came to Carthage in one of Brawners Wagons in company with Richardson, Wheat & Sibley.<sup>1</sup> I stopped at Artois Hamiltons Turned quite cold toward night

Tuesday June 7 1853 Attending Court at Carthage—Beautiful day, but very cool—

Wednesday June 8 Attending Court—Cold, cloudy day—Heard to day that Brooks<sup>2</sup> had shot John Morton in Quincy yesterday

\*Thursday June 9 Attending Court—very warm

Friday 10. Do—

Saturday June 11 Do—We concluded not to hold court next week. After dinner Mr Williams & self came in Browners hack to Warsaw, & about sundown got on board S. B. McKee for home

Sunday June 12 1853 At daylight awoke & found myself at the wharf at Quincy. Breakfasted at home. Attended church in morning & heard Dr. Blatchfd. preach. Very warm day.

Monday June 13 Very warm & dry. At work in office.  
†Little Emma Lord<sup>3</sup> came to us†

<sup>1</sup>Joseph Sibley, 1818-1897. Settled first at Nauvoo, moved to Warsaw in 1853, and to Quincy in 1865; from 1855 on circuit and appellate judge.

<sup>2</sup>Austin Brooks. Editor of the *Quincy Herald*, the Democratic paper; he was the son of S. S. Brooks, a pioneer Illinois editor; born in Cincinnati May 22, 1825; came to Edwardsville, 1829, educated at McKendree College; he worked with his father on the *Springfield Times* 1842, and at Quincy in 1845 and after 1848; elected to the Senate in 1858 and 1861; an able but scurrilous editor.

<sup>3</sup>The reference is to Emma Lord, who lived with the Brownings as their daughter, and is so referred to in Browning's will, although he never legally adopted her. She married Orrin Skinner in 1873 and died sometime after 1885. She had three children—two daughters who died in youth and a son, Browning Skinner.

Tuesday June 14 Do—Mrs B & self took tea at Dr Smiths

Wednesday 15 Miss Bettie Johnston arrived Mr & Mrs Shelton Moore, Miss Mary & Charles & Mrs Bowen took tea with us

Thursday June 16 1853 Fine day—At work in office—At night went to Kendalls Hall to see McAllister the magician

Friday June 17 Charming day. At work in office. \*Cox & wife took tea with us. Mrs Browning, Mrs Cox Miss Bettie & self went to Kendall's Hall at night to see McAllister

\*Saturday June 18 Fine day. At work in office Mrs Browning Miss Bettie & self took tea at Clark Church's

Sunday June 19 1853 Very warm—Attended Church with Miss Bettie in the morning & heard some man from Bangor preach—Again at night and heard Dr Blatchford

Monday June 20 Very hot day—Court commenced—Judge Walker presiding. At night went with Jennie Johnson & Miss Reynolds to Kendall's Hall to see McCallister the magician

Tuesday June 21 Attending Court—very hot

Wednesday June 22 1853 Attending Court.

Thursday June 23 Attending Court. Dr Singleton Miss Curry & Miss Means dined with us

Friday June 24 Attending Court. Dr Smith & family left for Booneville

\*Saturday June 25 Attending Court. Bushnell reached home this afternoon

Sunday June 26 1853 Was not well enough this morning to go to church. At about 11 O'clock was attacked violently with pains & spasms in my stomach—suppose billious cholic—and continued in great agony until after midnight when I got relief—but was totally prostrated—my strength all gone. Drs Ralston & Nichols with me.

Monday June 27

Tuesday June 28

Wednesday June 29

Thursday June 30 Confined to my room, but convalescing

Friday July 1 1853 This morning was able to take a short ride with Miss Bettie Johnston

Saturday July 2

Sunday July 3 Still keeping my room, but regaining my strength

Monday July 4. Lovely day. Took ride this morning with Miss Jennie Johnston. U S Court commences at Springfield, and I had hoped & expected to be there, but have been prevented by my severe illness. Providence permitting will start Thursday

\*Tuesday July 5 1853 Beautiful day. At night had a large party, given to Miss Bettie Johnston. Some 200 people present.

Wednesday July 6 Very lovely day—preparing to start to Springfield tomorrow

Thursday July 7. At 5 A M Misses Bettie & Jennie Johnston, Miss Reynolds & myself started in stage—they for Griggsville—I for Naples—On Mill creek hill the horses became unruly—kicked furiously and came near running away but succeeded in quieting them and got safely down the hill Half mile East of Kingston one of the hind wheels of the omnibus gave way—the spokes all crushed out and let us down in the road. Procured a common two horse lumber wagon, piled in the mail bags & our trunks, mounted on the top of the trunks, and thus exposed to the dust & burning sun pursued our journey. At 4 P. M. I left the young ladies at Mr Stanfords, and then came on to Naples where I arrived at 6 P. M. & stayed all night at Philips tavern

Friday July 8 1853 At 9 O'clock started in the cars for Springfield. Reached Jacksonville at 3 & Springfield at 8 P. M. having been 11 hours on the way. Boiler was burnt out—leaked & put out fire so could not raise steam. Stopped at Mrs Enos. Found Judge McLean & Miss Ludlow here—very handsome girl—At 10 we all went to party at Popes. The day has been very warm. Heavy shower at night which cooled the atmosphere some. Williams & Grimshaw here

Saturday July 9 1853 Have tried before judges McLean & Drummond the cases of Strow vs Butler & Mattison vs Walker Neither of them yet decided

\*Sunday July 10 No preaching at Mr Dodge's church, so I went with Jack Smith to the Campbellite

After tea called at Ridgley's and spent an hour. Rain in afternoon and again at night

\*Monday July 11 Judge McLean & Miss Ludlow left this morning in the Stage. In the evening called at Edwards', Stuarts & Lincoln's.

\*Tuesday July 12 1853 Cool morning, but delightful day. Court adjourned & the Judge, Williams & others left in the cars at 8 A. M. I have to remain to get some records, which Pope is too drunk to prepare to day Made several calls on friends during the day.

Wednesday July 13 Warmer than yesterday. I have completed my business here, & expect to leave for home in the morning

\*Thursday July 14 1853. At 8 A. M. left Springfield in the cars for St. Louis. Reached Alton at 12, & thence to St Louis on Altona. Dined at Planters, and at 5 P. M. started for Quincy on Di Vernon. Warm day & excessively heavy thunder & rain at night.

Friday July 15 Reached home at 11 A M—All well. Delightful day

Saturday July 16 Fine morning. Took Powell of Peoria out riding. He & Williams, Bushnell & Asbury took tea with me

\*Sunday July 17 1853 Cool & cloudy. Attended Church in the morning, but was quite indisposed through the day & did not go at night

Monday July 18 Cold, cloudy day—At work in office—

Tuesday July 19 Bright, & something warmer At work in office

Wednesday July 20 Pleasant day. At work in office

\*Thursday 21 Most lovely day. Took dinner at Erskines with Butler & others. Tea at Seamans

\*Friday July 22 1853 Fine day. Butler of Mobile dined with me

Saturday 23 Confined at home with illness—In physicians hands

Sunday 24 Confined to my room all day under the operation of medicine

Monday 25 Beautiful day—At home—

Tuesday 26 Still pleasant. Mr Officer & nine of his Mutes from the school at Jacksonville took breakfast with us.

Wednesday July 27, 1853 Pleasant day. But the weather is, and has been for some time past very cool At work in office

Thursday 28 Pleasant day At work in office a portion of the time—not well enough for constant application. \*At night attended rail road meeting at Kendalls Hall & made speech

Friday 29 Very pleasant day. Quite warm again. At work in office

Saturday July 30 1853 Fine day. At work in office—Election held upon proposition to take additional \$100,000 of rail road stock<sup>1</sup>

Vote stood for subscription 1132

Against do 3

Sunday July 31 Fine rain this morning—Attended Church in the morning & again at night

Monday Augt 1 1853 Fine warm day. At work in office

Tuesday Augt 2. Warm. Very heavy rain in forenoon. At work in office

Wednesday Augt 3. Still very warm. Mrs Barret and Miss Laura Barret arrived on a visit to us

Thursday Augt 4 Very warm. At work in office

Friday Augt 5 Fine day—At work in office. Mrs & Miss Barret, Mrs Browning & self took tea at Sam Churchs.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This election was for additional subscription to the Northern Cross Railroad.

<sup>2</sup>Perhaps Samuel P. Church. Merchant in Quincy since 1835.



Saturday Augt 6 1853 Fine day. At work in office

Sunday Augt 7. Warm, very warm—Attended Church with Mrs Browning & Miss Laura Barret—Mr Marks preached Revd Mr Ash of Louisiana Mo came home with us to dinner—Heard him preach at night

Monday Augt 8 Still warm. At work in office

Tuesday Augt 9 Attended pick nick & Fish fry at Kates Lake Took Miss Laura Barret with me—Fifty or sixty persons. Very warm day, but pleasant party

Wednesday August 10 1853 Mrs Barret & Miss Laura Barret left this morning. Very warm day—but a little rain about noon. At work in office

Thursday Augt 11 Warmest day of the season. At work in office.

Friday Augt 12 At 4 this morning Alex Pearson & self & my boy Wm went fishing. Returned at 10 with 5 or 6 bass which we had for breakfast & dinner. Excessively hot. Mrs B & self took tea at Mr Marks

Saturday Augt 13 1853 Excessively hot day. At work in office

Sunday 14 Attended Church morning & evening

Monday Augt 15 At day break this morning Seaman, his son Jo: myself & boy William started to sand slough fishing. Caught minnows in a little creek South of Town & at 7 O'clock in the morning were fishing about 6 miles below Town. Returned in afternoon with more than 60 fine bass, and had a fry at my house for supper. Seaman & wife & Alex Pearson partaking with us

\*Tuesday Augt 16 1853 Still warm & dry—At work in office

Wednesday Augt 17 Warm & dry—At work in office

Thursday Augt 18 Continues warm & dry. At work in office Dined at S P Churchs. Mrs B & self spent the evening at Mr Well's in the country

Friday 19 Quite cool. Mrs B & self took tea at Cox's.

Saturday 20 Rained a little last night. Cloudy & cool. At work in office. †Mrs Cox & Boys to breakfast with us†

Sunday Augt 21 1853 Very cloudy day & warm. Attended Church morning & evening

Monday 22 Warm & cloudy. Heavy thunder storm & rain at night

Tuesday 23 Warm & cloudy. At work in office Comet made its appearance this evening in the West, almost in the track of the Sun

\*Wednesday 24 Very cool, cloudy day—Comet visible again at night

Thursday 25 Same as yesterday. At work in office. At Kendalls Hall at night to hear Winchall

Friday August 26 1853 At work in office. Mrs B & self took tea at Savages—

Saturday 27. Very cold last night, and altho this is a bright, beautiful day I have found a fire in the office necessary to my comfort all day

\*Sunday 28 Beautiful day. Attended Church morning & evening

Monday 29 Lovely day. At work in office

\*Tuesday 30 Very warm. Mrs B & self took tea at Godfreys

\*Wednesday 31 Hot—at work in office

\*Thursday Sept 1 1853 Very warm day. At work in office. Aurora Borealis visible about 8 O'clock at night. At half past one it was very brilliant & beautiful. Its Western extremity lay a little West of North, extending thence East in a bow or crescent, spanning what seemed to be a bank of fog, to a point nearly N E, and sending up from all the Eastern half of the arch long & beautiful streamers. †Emma Commenced School under Miss Lange†

Friday Sept 2 Hot & dry—at work in office

Saturday Sept 3 Same as yesterday

Sunday Sept 4 1853 Extremely warm & dry. Attended Church morning & evening. Returning at night, saw them playing cards in the house on N.E. corner of Maine & Seventh—Have seen the same thing frequently before on Sunday evenings & must have them indicted. 'Tis the duty of a good citizen to exert himself for the suppression of such things

\*Monday Sept 5 Very warm indeed & dry. In the night had fine, refreshing rain. At work in office

Tuesday Sept 6 1853 Cloudy & in consequence of the rain last night cool. Mrs Cox & boys dined with us, & they & all of Mr Erskines family took tea. At work in office

\*Wednesday Sept 7 Quite cool—Fire in office

Thursday Sept 8 Cool & cloudy Fire in office Mrs B & self took tea & spent the evening at Asburys

Friday Sept 9 Beautiful day. At work in office

Saturday Sept 10 Same as yesterday. At night Cox's and ourselves went to menagerie

Sunday Sept 11 1853 At 9 O'clock this morning took Jake & the buggy & started to Pittsfield. The day was cloudy & pleasant and at 3 P. M. I reached Barry & stayed all night at Harveys tavern. At night called on Mrs Baker & Jerome. Rain in the evening

Monday Sept 12 Came to Pittsfield. Arrived at 10 A. M. Stopped at Gray's tavern. Day quite warm. Attending Court

Tuesday Sept 13 Warm—a little rain. Attending Court.

Wednesday Sept 14 Attending Court. Dined at Henry Mudd's

Thursday Sept 15 1853 Very warm. Attending Court at Pittsfield

Friday Sept 16 Very warm. Attending Court

\*Saturday Sept 17. Yesterday & to day appear to me as warm as any days of the season, with no, or very little abatement of the temperature at night. This morning I left for home. Court has not adjourned, but I have to be at Oquawka on Monday. The day was so hot that traveling distressed old Jake very much, and

I did not reach home till near 9 O'clock at night. Lutheran Convention in session & President Springer & three other delegates at my house

Sunday Sept 18 1853 Remarkably warm. Linen pants without drawers & linen Coat without vest, as much as I could bear. Attended Church & heard President Springer preach a most excellent sermon. In afternoon left on the packet Ben Campbell for Oquawka. At 9 at night reached Keokuk & Montrose at 12½ where I went aboard of Steamer McKee. Just before night turned cold & I had to change my clothing

\*Monday Sept 19 Reached Oquawka at 11 A M Stopped at Barnes tavern—Day quite cold

\*Tuesday Sept 20 1853 Attending Court at Oquawka—

Wednesday 21 Ditto—This evening in company with Skinner & Parsons took tea at Sumner Phelps—Weather cool enough to make fire comfortable, but bright & clear.

\*Thursday 22 Adjourned Court this morning, and at 2 P. M. left Oquawka on Steamer McKee for home. Reached Montrose just at night—Came round the rapids in Hancock—Arrived at Keokuk at 10 P. M. and got on board steamer Ben Campbell at 3 A M for home

Friday Sept 23 1853 Reached home at 8 O'clock this morning. Weather clear & beautiful, but excessively dry—Have had no rain for weeks.

\*Saturday Sept 24 Somewhat indisposed—took medicine & remained at home most of the day.

Sunday 25 At home under the influence of medicine—Did not go to Church

Monday 26 After breakfast took a ride with Mrs Duval, and then went to work in office

Tuesday 27 At work in office. Warm & dry

\*Wednesday Sept 28 1853 At work in office. Henry Mudd home with me to tea & all night

Thursday 29 Commenced raining gently in the forenoon & continued all day—The first we have had for many weeks. †H. T. Mudd with us†

Friday, 30 Cool & quite cloudy. At work in office

Saturday Oct 1 1853 Cloudy in forenoon—bright & pleasant in afternoon. At work in office

Sunday Oct 2 Pleasant day Attended church in morning—  
At 10 O'clock at night took passage on Steamer Ben Campbell for Warsaw on my way to Carthage to attend Court. Soon got on sand bar & in the fog where we remained till after breakfast next morning.

Monday Oct 3 Reached Warsaw at 2 P. M. I called at Roosevelts till Wheat got hack ready at Browners—then went on to Carthage where we arrived just after night

\*Tuesday October 4 1853 Stopped at Artois Hamiltons on my arrival last night, and to day am attending Court

Wednesday Oct 5

Thursday Oct 6

Friday Oct 7

Saturday Oct 8 Attending Court. Adjourned at 3 P. M. and I went in Browners hack out to Warsaw. Got to Roosevelts just after night—and remained

Sunday Oct 9 resting—Did not go to church

The entire week past has been bright & warm & dry. No rain since I came to the County

Monday Oct 10 1853 Frost last night—the first of the season After breakfast left Roosevelts, and returned to Carthage to Court

Tuesday Oct 11 Heavy frost. Attending Court At night an abundant rain with thunder & lightning

Wednesday Oct 12

Thursday 13 Pleasant days—Attending Court

Friday Oct 14 Just before midnight closed the case of The People for use English vs Marsh & others,<sup>1</sup> on Admr's bond, which we commenced week ago last Wednesday

<sup>1</sup>Marsh vs. The People (to the use of English), 15 *Illinois*, 284, December term, 1853. A question involving the conduct of administrators of an estate. See also entry for January 19, 1854, *post*, 125.



Saturday Oct 15 1853 This morning Wheat, George Rogers, a Mr Jones of Griggsville & myself took passage in the stage for Quincy, and I reached home just before sun down. Fine day

Sunday Oct 16 At home—beautiful day. Attended Church morning & evening

Monday Oct 17. At 4 O'clock this morning left home in the stage for Rushville. Dined at Mt Sterling & came on from there with Beard in his hack. Priest Fielding from Mt. Sterling being the other passenger. Reached Rushville just before night. Stopped at Campbells tavern—Jack Grimshaw & self room together

\*Tuesday Oct 18 1853

Wednesday 19

Thursday 20—Friday 21—Attending Court in Rushville—weather beautiful—

Saturday 22 Court adjourned this morning and I start home in stage this afternoon—Cold wind from the West—\*Traveled in Beards hack to Mt Sterling—there took the coach just after night—Full load passengers, & stage agent & drivers drunk

Sunday 23 Reached home this morning before day—Attended Congregational church in forenoon & heard Revd. Mr Potter<sup>1</sup>

Monday Oct 24 1853 At home attending Court—The weather is still very fine, though cooler, heavy frosts at night

\*Tuesday 25 Attending Court—

Wednesday 26 Cool, misty day—at night snowed a little—cleared off & very heavy frost—Mrs Mary E Browning down to day from Lagrange

\*Thursday 27 Pretty day. Miss Lucia Jonas married this evening to Mr Block—Went with Mrs Cox to make call on the bride after night, and spent an hour or two very pleasantly

Friday Oct 28 1853—

<sup>1</sup>John D. Potter had just been called to the pastorate of the Congregational Church. *Quincy Whig*, August 18, 1853.

Saturday Oct 29 Pretty, sunny days, but cool—Heavy frosts at night—Attending Court—Have moved & reset piones this week.

\*Sunday Oct 30 Attended church in morning. In afternoon heard Revd Mr Worrell preach at Kendalls Hall

Monday Oct 31 Commenced trial of Wm Holbone for murder

Tuesday Nov 1—Wednesday 2 Thursday 3—Friday 4  
Proceeding with above trial—In afternoon commenced my Argument to Jury.

Saturday Nov 5 1853 Concluded my argument this morning—After noon Warren addressed jury & they retired just at night—

Sunday Nov 6 At 9 A. M. jury returned verdict for manslaughter—all that I had asked for—Went to church in morning In Evening Mrs B & self took tea at Erskines

\*Monday Nov 7 In the evening attended at Episcopal Church & saw Mr McDonald & Miss Bushnell married, & spent evening at Mr Bushnells—

Tuesday Nov 8 Election took place

Wednesday Nov 9 1853 Attending Court—At night went to concert by Swiss Bell ringers at Kendalls Hall

\*Thursday Nov 10

Friday Nov 11 Attending Court

\*Saturday Nov 12 Revd Alexander Campbell<sup>1</sup> of Bethany, is preaching in Town & staying with me at my house

Sunday Nov 13 Heard Mr Campbell at Kendalls Hall in the morning—Very able sermon. At Presbyterian church at night—Mr Campbell, & Mr McKeever & Mr Bakewell, his brothers in law & Mr Roberts staid all night with me

Monday Nov 14 1853 Mr Campbell took leave of us this morning on his return trip to Virginia. \*At night Mrs B—Mrs Cox & self attended Amateur concert at Kendalls Hall for benefit of Widows & Orphans Home—

<sup>1</sup>Alexander Campbell, 1788-1866. Founder of the Campbellite sect; established Bethany College, 1840.

\*Tuesday Nov 15

Wednesday Nov 16 Attending Court

Thursday Nov 17 Attending Court. At night Mrs B, Mrs Cox & self at Kendall's Hall to hear lecture from the Revd Mr Holmes of St. Louis—subject "Faith". Good lecture

Friday Nov 18 1853 Attending Court. Mrs B & self took tea at Cox's—

Saturday Nov 19 Attending Court—Quite warm & raining, at which I rejoice weather having been very dry for some time past Rev Mr Homes of St Louis at my house

\*Sunday Nov 20 In the morning attended Presbyterian church & heard Mr Homes preach—At 3 p. m. went with Rev Mr Swan of Carthage, who came to my house to dinner, to Mr Footes Church where he preached—At night went with him to Baptist church where he preached again

Monday Nov 21 1853 Mr Swan left us today—Mr Homes still with us, but gone fishing—At night attended concert at Kendall's Hall given by Amateurs for benefit of the poor—

Tuesday Nov 22 Mr Holmes left to day—Beautiful weather—

Wednesday Nov 23 Argued Habeas Corpus sued out on behalf of a negro—Discharged on ground of unconstitutionality of law under which arrest was made—

Court adjourned—Very warm

Thursday Nov 24 Thanksgiving day—Asbury's & Cox's dined with us—pretty day but cool

Friday 25—Saturday 26 At work in office

\*Sunday Nov 27 1853 Pretty day & pleasant. Attended Mr Marks church in morning In afternoon Rev Mr Chase of Macomb came to my house & at 3 p m heard him preach at centre church—Singleton came & staid all night

Monday Nov 28 Warm & raining—Rain continued to fall all day—At work in office

Tuesday Nov 29 Quite cool—a little snow fell in the morning, but bright before night Mr Chase left—At work in office

Wednesday 30 At work in office. Dr Rice<sup>1</sup> came on Packet just after night & stopped at my house

Thursday December 1 1853 Quite cold—In afternoon took a ride about Town with Dr Rice. At night heard lecture at Kendall's Hall—subject, life & character of St. Paul—Spoke 1½ hours extemporaneous & very interesting—Mrs Cox went with me to lecture

\*Friday—December 2 Just after dinner today I was attacked violently with pain in my stomach—Went from the office home & sent for the Dr—Was very ill all night, and all day

\*Saturday Decr 3, the Dr remaining with me all night Saturday night, during all of which time I was suffering greatly and did not get relief till

Sunday Decr 4 just before day.

Monday Decr 5 1853 Tuesday 6—Wednesday 7—Thursday 8—Friday 9 Confined to the house convalescing

Saturday Decr 10 Revd Mr McCandlish<sup>2</sup> of Lewiston & Mathews of Monmouth arrived this afternoon & stopped at my house—I rode out to day, and took a little exercise.

Sunday Decr 11 Not able to be out at church—The gentlemen above named both preached today at different times in Mr Footes church. They are old school Presbyterians, and are here to see about organizing an old school Church

Monday Decr 12 1853 Mr McCandlish & Mr Mathews left to day after dinner, having determined to organize an old school church the day before Christmast ensuing

<sup>1</sup>Nathan L. Rice, 1807-1877. Born in Kentucky; educated at Centre College and Princeton; pastor successively in Bardstown, Cincinnati, St. Louis, holding debates with Alexander Campbell and with Archbishop Purcell of the Roman Catholic church, and editing various religious journals; 1857 he became pastor of a Presbyterian church in Chicago, and 1859-1861 he served as professor of didactic theology at McCormick Theological Seminary; he represented emphatically the proslavery conservative Presbyterian wing.

<sup>2</sup>William McCandlish, formerly of Lewistown, was pastor, 1853-1858, of the Westminister or Old School Presbyterian Church established at Quincy; it reunited with the First Church, 1875; Browning was among the most active supporters of Westminister Church. *Quincy Whig*, May 13, 1854.

\*Tuesday Decr 13 I have been to the office to day trying to work a little. At night attended concert at Kendalls Hall given by Amateur Musicians—Mrs Browning, Mrs Cox & Miss Aldrich with me

Wednesday Decr 14 Beautiful day—At work in office—

Thursday 15 At work in office—Fine day

Friday Decr 16—Snow fell pretty fast all day, but melted fast as it fell. Towards night became colder & about an inch snow remained

Saturday Decr 17 1853 Diligently engaged all day preparing for Springfield, but quite indisposed, at night after packing my trunk, had to take medicine

Sunday Decr 18—Quite unwell all day—not able to be out—

\*Monday Decr 19 More unwell & had to call in the Dr—Steam boat left this morning but I could not go. Recvd a note from Eliza Conn who was on board announcing her marriage—

Tuesday Decr 20

Wednesday 21 Still confined, but improving. The weather has become much colder since I was ill

\*Thursday 22 Able to be about to day & expect to start to Springfield tomorrow

Friday Decr 23 1853 Was up at 2 Oclock this morning & at 4 started in the stage coach for Naples—A very cold morning, but I was warmly clad & did not feel the cold—Coach full of passengers—Among others Joel Rice, on his way to St. Louis. Breakfasted at Columbus, dined at Mt. Sterling, crossed the River at Meredosia just before night & reached Naples at 7—

Saturday Decr 24 After breakfast took the cars for Springfield, where I arrived at 3 p. m. & stopped at Mrs Enos—In room with Williams & Lawrence—Drummond has been very impatient at my delay, and this morning discharged the jury, which will compel me to continue many cases which I had wished to try Has been a beautiful day, but cold—This day was set apart for the organization of an old school church in Quincy



\*Sunday Decr 25 1853 Attended church at Mr Dodges in the morning—wrote a letter to Mrs B in afternoon, took tea at Mr Ridgelys, & went to meeting of bible society at Mr Dodges Church at night

Monday Decr 26 Attending Court. Took tea at Jack Smiths

\*Tuesday Decr 27 Attending Court—Took tea at Ninian Edward's

Wednesday 28 Attending Court—

Thursday 29 Court adjourned—took tea at Vanburgens

Friday 30—Saturday 31 Taking care of my health & amusing myself as well as I can

## 1854

ng-

Sunday January 1 1854<sup>1</sup> I begin to day a new year, and pray God to give me strength so to improve it, that I may be, when it expires (if preserved till its end) a wiser and a better man than I am now at its beginning—

I trust that I am not altogether ungrateful for the mercies and blessings of the past year, and cannot better show my gratitude than by the improvement which I shall make of the coming one.

Attended 3 Presbyterian church in the morning & evening and heard Mr Dodge preach on both occasions

Monday Jañy 2 1854 The Supreme Court was to have commenced its session to day but Treat being the only Judge present no Court was held. I gave the afternoon to calling upon some of my friends, and exchanging the congratulations of the new year

Tuesday Jañy 3. The Judges have not yet arrived, and no Court held. Am occupied in the law Library in the preparation of cases

Wednesday Jany 4 Judge Caton<sup>2</sup> having arrived Court was opened, and I argued one of my cases

<sup>1</sup>January 1, 1854 to June 30, 1855 is in a book bound in law-calf-colored leather, 242 unnumbered pages, 4 $\frac{1}{8}$  by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches, blue paper with faint simple ruling. The diary begins on page 3 and ends on page 235. Inside the front cover written in pencil is the following:

| Fall Courts |   |     |      |
|-------------|---|-----|------|
| Pike        | 2 | Mon | Sept |
| Brown       | 1 | "   | Oct  |
| McDonough   | 2 | "   | Oct  |
| Schuyler    | 3 | "   | "    |
| Hancock     | 1 | Mon | Oct  |
| Adams       | 3 | Mon | Oct  |
| Henderson   | 3 | Mon | Sept |

<sup>2</sup>John D. Caton, 1812-1895. Born in New York; came to Chicago, 1833; justice of Illinois Supreme Court, 1842-1864; active in the first western telegraph companies.

Spring-  
field—

Thursday Jany 5 1854 Argued another case in the Supreme Court. By invitation spent the evening at S. Francis'<sup>1</sup>

Friday Jany 6 At work in the Library—having given away to other persons for the argument of one case

Saturday Jany 7 Same as yesterday

Sunday Jany 8 Bright, pleasant day. Attended 3 Presbyterian church morning & evening & heard Mr Dodge preach

In afternoon wrote to Mrs B.

†Spring-  
field—

Monday Jany 9 1854 Attending Court

Tuesday Jany 10 Argued case of Lonk vs Woods<sup>2</sup> in Supreme Court. Spent evening with a friend

Wednesday Jany 11 Snowing all day—Kept my room writing Colonization address

Thursday Jany 12 At night delivered colonization address at Dr Smiths Church

Friday Jany 13 Attending Court. At night called on a friend

Saturday Jany 14 1854 Attending Court—Several inches snow on the ground & quite cold

Sunday Jany 15 Day mild & thawing briskly Attended Church—In the morning heard Mr Dodge of Jacksonville, and at night Mr Garver of this place

Monday Jany 16 Snowing most of the day, and cold—at night snow 4 or 5 inches deep. Spent an hour at Francis in the evening

We get no mails. The cars have not been through from Chicago since Thursday last—being stopped by snow drifts North of Bloomington

<sup>1</sup>Simeon Francis, 1796-1872. Born in Connecticut; came to Springfield 1831, beginning the publication of the *Sangamo Journal*, which he edited till 1855; appointed paymaster in the army, 1861; a famous man of his hands in political encounters, thrashing Douglas on one occasion.

<sup>2</sup>Louk vs. Woods, 15 *Illinois*, 256, December term, 1853; an action of trespass involving the location of a public road.

Tuesday Jany 17 1854 Attending Court—Continues cold. I do not remember ever to have seen the sleighing so good as it now is.

At night went to 3 Presbyterian church & heard a very good lecture from the Rev Mr Mears of Griggsville. Subject, Milton & Bunyan

Wednesday Jany 18 To day I argued the case of Pile vs Mc Bratney<sup>1</sup> for Deft. Argued on behalf of Plaintiff by Edmonds & Lawrence Bushnell arrived to night on his way to New York—Henry Lawrence with him

Thursday Jany 19 1854 Attending Court—Marsh vs English argued by Lawrence & Logan for Pltfs—Browning and Edmonds for Deft

Friday 20 Attending Court. The morning warm—thawing & threatening rain. After dinner Bushnell left for N Y via Chicago

In the afternoon began to turn cold & now, just after night, is I believe the coldest of the season

Saturday 21 Whitney vs. Mayo et als<sup>2</sup> argued by Edmonds for Pltf—Browning for Deft, in the morning & postponed till Monday. In afternoon Hatch vs Wagner<sup>3</sup> argued by Hay for Pltf—Browning for Deft & submitted

Sunday Jany 22 1854 Still very cold—Attended Church in the morning & at night, and heard two excellent sermons from Mr Dodge—

Monday 23 Commenced the argument of Mulhern & Barnett vs Kimball,<sup>4</sup> & concluded Whitney et als vs Mayo et als

x x x x x

<sup>1</sup>Pile vs. McBratney, 15 *Illinois*, 314, December term, 1853. An ejectment case appealed from Quincy.

<sup>2</sup>Whitney vs. Mayo, 15 *Illinois*, 251, December term, 1853. A case involving the right of a Catholic priest to convey by deed a section of the church lot.

<sup>3</sup>Hatch vs. Wagner, 15 *Illinois*, 127, December term, 1853. A case involving equitable rights in a piece of land disposed of at a sheriff's sale.

<sup>4</sup>Kimball vs. Mulhern et al., 15 *Illinois*, 205. A levy on real estate by writ of attachment.

Tuesday 24 Concluded Mulhern & Barrett vs Kimball & commenced Ralston et als vs Wood<sup>1</sup> Fine winter weather. Snow still on the ground & sleighing fine. After supper went to Mr Edwards & spent an hour or two

Wednesday Jany 25 1854 Argument of Ralston et als vs Wood continued by Wheat for Pltfs & Lawrence for Defendant. Thawing to day—Afternoon quite cloudy & misting—At night thawing rapidly with occasional lightning

Thursday Jany 26 Argument of Ralston et als vs Wood continued & concluded by Lawrence & Browning for Deft & Wheat for Pltf

Frozen again this morning & pretty cold winter day Invited to party at Ridgleys in the evening, but declined going

Spring-  
field

Jany 27 1854 A beautiful day—Bright & mild & thawing rapidly Morris vs. Trustees of Schools<sup>2</sup> argued by Browning for Pltf & Wheat for Deft—

Kinney vs Turner<sup>3</sup> argued by Lawrence for Pltf & Browning for Deft—Gaty, McCune &c<sup>4</sup> by Lawrence for Pltf & Browning for Deft—This closes our business in Springfield for the winter & we expect to start for Quincy in the morning Spent the evening at Francis

x x x x x x

Saturday Jany 28 1854 At 8 O'clock this morning Wheat, Lawrence & myself and myself left Springfield in the cars for Naples on our way home—At Naples found one of Pinkhams carriages waiting for us, in which, after taking dinner, we started for home. Took supper at Kingston at 7 O'clock, and the roads being fine, and night mild, although no moon, we continued our journey home, where we arrived between 12 & 1 Oclock at night.

<sup>1</sup>Ralston et al. vs. Wood, 15 *Illinois*, 159-172, December term, 1853. A case involving recovery on an administrator's bond.

<sup>2</sup>Morris vs. The Trustees of Schools, 15 *Illinois*, 266, December term, 1853; a case involving a writ of attachment for the collection of a debt.

<sup>3</sup>Kinney et al. vs. Turner, 15 *Illinois*, 182, December term, 1853; an action involving the conveyance of an exclusive right in a portable saw-mill.

<sup>4</sup>Gaty et al. vs. Casey et al., 15 *Illinois*, 189, December term, 1853; an action to enforce a mechanic's lien.



On this side the river the roads are dry & dusty, having been but little snow this winter—At Springfield the sleighing has been fine for three weeks & is still so

Sunday Jan'y 29 1854 At home home. Beautiful day and mild. In the evening attended Mr Marks Church.

Monday 30 Fine day—at work in office. At night Mrs B & self attended baptist church & heard Elder Knapp preach. Great revival going on—but the preaching was by no means to my taste

Tuesday 31 At work in office Henry Mudd to dinner with me—Cox & his wife to supper Fine day

February 1 1854 A very lovely day—Clear, bright, and as warm as April At work in office

Thursday Feby 2. Turned cold in the night—Froze some, and a very little snow fell—Day gusty & cold At work in office

Friday Feby 3 Pleasant day, but cool—Spent the evening at Asbury's with the ladies social club

Saturday 4 Very pretty day & mild. At work in office

Sunday Feby 5 1853 Dry pleasant winter weather. Have had very little rain since July, & hardly any snow. The streets & roads are quite dusty. In the morning attended Mr Potters Church—Miss Brayman came home with us to dinner. At night Mrs B & self went to the baptist church to hear Elder Knapp—A great crowd He is neither educated, eloquent or a good reasoner—His sermon was a very indifferent affair, more remarkable for an overweening egotism than anything else, but he has managed by some means to get up a great excitement

Monday February 6 1854 Election today to fill vacancies in Senate & house of Representatives in State Legislature<sup>1</sup>

Spent the evening at Bushnells with a few friends. Snowed heavily in the fore part of the night. Several inches deep when we returned home at 10 O'clock at night

\*Tuesday Feby 7 At work in office. Mrs B & self took tea & passed the evening at Cox's

<sup>1</sup>John Wood had resigned as senator because under instructions from Pike County he had voted for the Hannibal and Naples Railroad charter contrary to Quincy's interests. The special election turned on the question. *Quincy Whig*, February 6, 1854.

Wednesday 8 At work in office—pretty day

Thursday 9 At work in office. Pleasant day. Mrs. B & self took tea and spent the evening at Hollowbushs with Asburys & Coxs

†Quincy Friday, Feby 10 1854 Quite a pretty day—In the afternoon attended funeral of George Leech. Wagley & wife at my house

At party at Lorenzo Bulls<sup>1</sup> a night

Saturday 11 Warm & Cloudy—At work in office  
at

\*Sunday 12 Very warm, cloudy & threatening rain all day—but turned cold in the night—Attended the Presbyterian Church & heard Mr Hale preach in the morning and again at night

†Quincy \*Monday Feby 13 1854 At work in office—Mrs B & self went with Wagley & wife to Richardsons to tea

Tuesday Feby 14 Two or three inches snow this morning—Wagley & wife left for home

Wednesday 15 At work in office—Froze hard last night & quite cold to day

Thursday 16 At work in office. Pretty cold day

Friday 17 Pretty day. A party of 40 or 50 friends at my house at night—

†Quincy Saturday—Feby 18 1854 Warm pretty day. Thawing rapidly. At work in office. Miss Bettie Humphrey at our house

\*Sunday 19 Attended Episcopal Church in the morning with Miss Bettie Humphrey and heard Mr Giddings preach. The afternoon & night were rainy & did not go out

Monday 20 Quite a little snow on the ground this morning, but was soft—melted away rapidly, and by night had nearly disappeared

†Quincy Tuesday 21 Feby 1854 Very pretty day. At work in office

Wednesday 22 Raw chilly day. At work in the office most of the day. At night went to supper of the Quincy Blues at

<sup>1</sup>Lorenzo Bull, 1819-1905. Came to Quincy 1833; went into business with his brother, C. H. Bull, in 1844; in 1861 entered the banking business.

Kendalls Hall—Took Miss McCall & Miss Bettie Humphrey with me

Thursday 23 Fine day. At night Mrs B & self attended party at Dr Hollowbush's

Friday 24 Very pretty day. At work in office.

Saturday 25 Warm, cloudy & threatening rain At work in office

Sunday Feby 26 1854 Snowing heavily this morning but not cold. Attended Pres Church in morning—Not out again.

Monday Feby 27. Cloudy & mild—Snow has disappeared—At work in office

\*Tuesday Feby 28 Ground covered with snow again this morning, but it entirely disappeared during the day. The weather is mild & of the most favourable character for the wheat crops which were thought to have been injured by the great drought of the fall & winter

Mrs Cox took tea with us

Wednesday March 1 1854 The morning warm & pleasant. About 11 O'clock commenced raining and continued most of the day. Last night the locos held a meeting at the Court House for the purpose of endorsing the repeal of the Missouri compromise, which is most knavishly being attempted by Douglass, by a section of the bill for the organization of Nebraska Territory. The meeting wholly failed of its object. After drumming up all Douglass' minions about Town, when they came to take the vote there were but 43 poor spirited enough to sustain him, to 120 odd against him. I was not present, but am informed the proceedings were very diverting.

Judge Cather,<sup>1</sup> the Chairman, abdicated, and another officer had to be appointed before the vote was taken.

A general meeting is called for Friday night to remonstrate against the repeal. To day I have prepared five resolutions, which I think embody the sentiments of this community, and

<sup>1</sup>William H. Cather. Born in 1813; came to Quincy in 1837; county judge, 1853-1861; farmer and lawyer.

which, Providence permitting, I will present to the meeting for consideration & adoption. If people had the courage to express their true sentiments I think it would be found that there are not ten slavery propagandists in the city<sup>1</sup>

\*Thursday March 2 1854 Quite a heavy storm last night, thunder, lightning & a fine rain—still raining some this morning.

At work in office—at night attended a small party at Mr Fullers

Friday, March 3. Beautiful day. Mrs Browning, Mrs Holwush & self dined at Cox's. At night attended an immense meeting at the Court house to protest against repeal of the Missouri Compromise. I offered a series of resolutions and addressed the meeting in favour of them, and was followed by Lawrence and Roesler.<sup>2</sup> The vote was then taken upon, five in number, separately, and each one adopted unanimously.

I also wrote an article to day for the Patriot upon the same subject, and as I have to go tomorrow to Hancock Court, and will not have time to revise it for the press I will leave it with Cox for that purpose

<sup>1</sup>As early as January 31, the *Quincy Whig* had denounced the Kansas-Nebraska bill as a violation of the compromises of 1820 and 1850.

Browning's resolutions declared the Missouri Compromise was not superseded by the compromise of 1850, pronounced its repeal "unwise, unexpedient and dangerous," and declared the repeal would be taken as an abandonment of the compromise of 1850 and a reopening of the whole slavery question and would be dangerous to the Union. He argued further that the repeal of the compromise of 1820 after the free states had fulfilled their share was unjust. *Quincy Whig*, March 6, 1854.

The meeting of February 28 is described in the *Quincy Whig* of March 2, 1854. Calvin A. Warren made a speech on all sides of the question, J. E. Furness opposed the bill, and R. G. Howland offered a resolution that Douglas was responsible for the revival of agitation of the slavery question. It was carried, the original resolution supporting Douglas being beaten 122 to 43. A motion to adjourn was lost but declared carried by the chairman who left the chair; a new meeting was held with Lorenzo Bull as chairman, but not having the original resolutions it adjourned.

<sup>2</sup>Gustav Adolph Roesler (or Roesler d'Oels or von Oels) had been a member of the German Assembly of 1848; had escaped from imprisonment in the Hohen Asperg; had come to Milwaukee; and in 1852 had begun the editing of a German Whig paper, the *Tribune*, at Quincy. *Quincy Whig*, September 8, 21, December (passim), 1853; *Belleville Advocate*, November 23, 1853. A later entry in the diary implies his death was due to intemperance, August, 1855. See entry for August 13, 1855, *post*, 196.

†Quincy  
March 3  
1854

Saturday March 4 Very pretty day. Making preparation to start to Carthage to Court. \*Mr Stebbins & family including Mrs & Miss Eells, passed the afternoon & evening at our house—

Sunday March 5 1854 At 12 to day got aboard of a little stern wheel boat, the Gordon, for Warsaw on my way to Carthage to Court—Judge Skinner, Wheat, Lawrence & Warren in company. The day mild & pleasant.

The little boat got along pretty well, and between six & 7 O'clock in the evening we reached Warsaw—stopped at Herricks tavern.

I called at Roosevelts to see them, but they were reported not at home, and I saw none of them.

Monday March 6. 1854 After breakfast started for Carthage in one of Browners vihciles, and arrived about noon. Stopped at Artois Hamiltons—Lawrence & I rooming together Attended Court in afternoon

\*Tuesday March 7 Attending Court. Warm, cloudy & occasionally raining

After night Lawrence & I were sent for to the Court-house where it was said a Nebraska meeting was assembled—Had heard nothing of such a purpose, but went over and found Sibley addressing the people in favour of Douglass Nebraska bill. When he concluded a committee, which had been sent out, reported resolutions endorsing Douglass & the bill. Calvin A Warren then addressed the meeting for an hour in favour of them. When he concluded I was called for and spoke for an hour and a half in opposition, and concluded by offering substitutes for the original resolutions declaring that the compromise of 1820 was not superseded by the legislation of 1850, and that it would be unwise, inexpedient and dangerous to repeal the Missouri Compromise. It was now late, and as others wished to discuss the question the meeting adjourned till tomorrow night. Had a vote been taken we would easily have beaten them.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Almost an identical account of the meeting is in the *Quincy Whig*, March 14, 1854.



**Carthage** Wednesday March 8 1854 Very heavy wind through the night, and morning something colder, than had been, but day pleasant. At work in Court—At night a large meeting in pursuance of adjournment last night, assembled at the Court House to consider the Nebraska bill. W<sup>m</sup> H. Ralston<sup>1</sup> in the chair, Maniere Sec: The meeting was first addressed by Sibley in favour of a repeal of the Missouri compromise, and was followed by Sharp<sup>2</sup> in opposition. Lawrence was then called for, and spoke for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour in opposition to repeal Warren followed him advocating repeal, and the right of the South to introduce slavery into Kansas & Nebraska. It was after 10 when he closed. I was then called for & addressed the meeting for about 15 minutes—The vote was then taken upon my motion to amend by striking out & inserting. It was carried in the affirmative by the sound, but a division was called for, which when made, showed that in the crowded assembly, the house being entirely full, there were not to exceed 30 in favour of the Nebraska bill & opposed to striking out the original resolutions. A count was demanded, but the slave power was down, and its few advocates were not willing to submit to the mortification of a count—Their defeat was signal & complete & they determined to remain no longer. A rush was made for the door by the leader Harry Stephens, who was followed by all, not more than thirty in number, including Ralston, the chairman of the meeting, who dare not differ with Douglass in opinion. About 130 of the opponents of the Nebraska bill, and friends of the Missouri compromise remained, and as the chairman had fled, Mr Gregg of Warsaw was called to fill his place, and the resolutions, as amended, were then passed.

**Carthage** Towards the close of the meeting the people became very much excited, and upon a division the cheering was long & loud. Whigs & democrats, indiscriminately composed the meeting, and Sibley & Warren had earnestly appealed to party prejudices & urged party considerations to draw the democrats into the sup-

<sup>1</sup>William H. Ralston, a brother of Joseph N. Ralston and James H. Ralston of Quincy.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas C. Sharp, born in 1818. Came to Illinois, 1834; editor and lawyer at Warsaw; first a Democrat, then a Republican. Had shown himself a violent partisan in the days of the Mormon wars.

port of Douglass, but without success. If any augury can be drawn from the signs of the times it is that the party screws cannot be applied with sufficient force to drive the people to an abandonment of the Missouri Compromise, and the approval of slavery in Nebraska.

*Carthage* Thursday March 9 1854 Attending Court. Gloomy, disagreeable weather

Friday March 10 Attending Court. Ground frozen this morning—day cloudy & cool

Saturday March 11 Attending Court

Sunday March 12 Beautiful day—Warm & sunny South wind blowing & towards night cloudy & threatening rain.

Attended Mr Swans church & heard an old English Methodist preacher

*Carthage* Monday March 13 1854 Attending Court—Warm & cloudy

Tuesday March 14 Attending Court. Continues warm

\*Wednesday March 15 Attending Court. Am endeavoring to wind up my business so as to get away this afternoon. \*At 3 P M Lawrence & I left Carthage for Warsaw. Hamilton sent us down in two horse buggy. Reached Warsaw about sun down. I stopped at Roosevelts to supper. He gone to N York. After supper went down to Herricks tavern. Half past two at night the packet came up, but we did not get aboard & remained at grocery down by the river, till morning

Thursday March 16 1854—Between 6 & 7 O'clock this morning the packet Ben Campbell came down from Keokuk and we took our passage on her home, where we arrived about 1 P. M. Mrs. Williams, the wife of Archibald Williams Esqr died this morning Warm, pleasant day

\*Friday March 17 High wind all day and quite cool. At 4 P. M. attended Mrs Williams funeral as one of the pall bearers

Saturday March 18 Very bright day, but cool—Clear & cold last night and froze very hard

*Carthage* Sunday March 19 1854 Mr Thomas an old school Presbyterian minister came to my house last night, & remained with us

till Monday Morning To day I attended Mr Fullers Church, but he did not preach—the pulpit was supplied by a Mr Ward—Miss Stella Smith is with us, and has been for some days

Monday March 20 At 6 O'clock this morning took the stage for Pittsfield to attend Court. Revd Mr Crane & young Mr Wheat<sup>1</sup> passengers—the first for Barry, the other for Pittsfield—Took dinner at Barry & arrived at Pittsfield before night. Stopped at Grays tavern. Day cloudy & cool.

Pittsfield— Tuesday March 21 1854 Attending Court—Had some rain, & thunder & lightning to day

Wednesday March 22 Attending Court

Thursday March 23 Attending court—Argued demurrer in case of Harrison vs Plank Road Company for Defts—Frost last night—Pleasant day, but somewhat cool—

Friday March 24 Attending Court. At night had Nebraska meeting at the Court-House, which was addressed by Singleton & myself. Singleton contended that the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional—that it was repealed by the Legislation of 1850—that Mr Clay originally opposed it & that he asserted in 1850 that it was null & inoperative—and that slavery ought to be permitted to diffuse itself, and that it was unfeeling & inhuman to deny to the people of old Virginia the right to quit their impoverished soil & take their negroes with them to the beautiful & fertile plains of Nebraska & Kansas. The discussion was kept up till midnight, & as Mr Williams wished to address the meeting we adjourned till tomorrow night without taking a vote, tho we were largely in the majority

Pittsfield Saturday—March 25 1854 Attending Court—Pretty day. Mr Williams has been ill all day. Not able to be out at night & Nebraska meeting postponed till Wednesday night

Sunday March 26 Very pretty mild day Did not go out to day. Spent my time reading the life of Christ.

Monday March 27 Attending Court—Commenced trial of Harrison vs The Plank Road Company—for Defendants—Judge Walker, Bailey & self took tea at Hays—

<sup>1</sup>Probably Alexander E. Wheat.

*Pittsfield* Tuesday March 28 1854 Proceeding with trial of Harrison vs Plank Road Co—Snow has been falling all day, but disappearing as fast as it fell—

\*Wednesday March 29 Proceeding with trial Several inches of snow on the ground this morning, crusted over, & a heavy sleet—Rained & sleeted all day

\*Thursday March 30 I concluded my argument in the above case at 6 this evening, and hope to start home at day break in the morning.

The day is cloudy, warm & muddy and now at night very cloudy & lightning

\*Friday March 31 1854 Morning very cloudy—raining a little with thunder. Last night there was a heavy thunder storm, and a great deal of rain fell. At 4½ O'clock this morning I started for Scotts landing on the Mississippi River to intercept the packet on my way home.

Reached the landing 18 miles from Pittsfield, before 8 O'clock & stopped at Greenes tavern. Continued to rain till towards noon, when the wind shifted to the North & some snow came with it. Boats could not run last night, and I had to wait till 4 P. M. before one appeared. I then got on the War Eagle a new & elegant boat to run between Galena & St. Pauls, and just now from Cincinnati crowded with emigrants. Reached home half after one O'clock at night—Very cold—ground hard frozen—very clear.

Mrs Kline of Pike County was on board, on her way to Palmyra to place her son at school. She intended to land at Marion City, but the night was cold & bleak, & she finally concluded to come on to Quincy—I saw her up to the Quincy House at 1 O'clock in the morning—

Saturday Apl 1 1854 Reached home between midnight & <sup>April</sup> day—Very cold—ice an inch or two thick this morning.

Sunday Apl. 2 Attended Mr Potters Church in the morning. Day bright but cool

Monday Apl. 3 At work in office & in Court. Warm day, and at night threatening rain

Tuesday Apl 4 Raining this morning & rained all day. Attending Court. Election for County Clerk to day—Miss Catharine Reid of Winchester Ky, came to my house yesterday & went out to Goven Duncans to day

*Quincy*

Wednesday Apl 5 1854 Attending Court.

Thursday Apl 6 Attending Court—Beautiful day—very warm

Friday Apl 7. Attending Court—Warm & very pretty day

Saturday Apl 8 Court adjourned to day—Emmas birth—She is this day 6 yrs old—\*Had a party of her little friends.

Whigs assembled at the Court House at night, and nominated candidates for Mayor, Alderman, &c.<sup>1</sup>

Warm day

*Quincy*

Sunday Apl. 9 1854 Slept but little last night & did not go to church to day—Rained towards night & became cool.

Monday Apl. 10 At work in office

Tuesday Apl. 11 At work in office. Mrs B & self rode out to Cox's to supper—

Wednesday Apl 12 Beautiful day—Six or eight friends to dinner with us

Thursday Apl. 13 At work in office

Friday Apl. 14 \*Raining all the forenoon. Devoted the day to making arrangements for election, & collecting money &c.

*Quincy*

Saturday Apl. 15 1854 Rained heavily last night, but became cold & several inches of snow this morning, which however melts away rapidly

\*Cox & his wife & Chas Rowland dined with us—4 P. M. I started for Oquawka, to attend Court—took passage on Steamer Die Vernon for Keokuk—

Sunday Apl 16 This morning found myself at Keokuk. Went to Laclede House to breakfast. Met Mr. Barney of N Y & Judge Mason. Attended Church in the morning, & after din-

<sup>1</sup>At the meeting April 8, Browning proposed a scheme of close organization for the election and for the future which was adopted. *Quincy Whig*, April 11, 1854.



ner judge Skinner & myself came to Montrose in a hack and went aboard the Steamer I McKee

wka Monday Apl 17 1854 Reached Oquawka this morning just after breakfast, and stopped at Barnes tavern.

Hard frost last night

Tuesday Apl. 18 Attending Court

Wednesday Apl 19 Attending Court. Wind in the South & day quite warm

\*Thursday Apl. 20 Attending Court—Very warm

Friday Apl. 21 Attending Court—Warm & windy

\*Saturday Apl 22 About 9 A. M. adjourned Court and took passage on the McKee, on my way home. At Montrose took a hack round the rapids to Keokuk & about 9 O'clock got on board the Jennie Deans on my way home

Sunday Apl 23 1854 Rained very heavily on the River last night. For several days has been, & still is very warm. Reached home this morning about 11 O'clock.

Monday Apl. 24 Before day took the stage for Rushville to attend Court. Took Miss Emily Cook under my charge to Rushville. Breakfasted at Columbus, dined at Mt. Sterling & arrived at Rushville just at night, and took lodgings at Campbells tavern.

The day was very warm, & the roads fine except between Clayton & Mt. Sterling where there seemed to have been recent heavy rains. Planting corn all through Adams

ville Tuesday Apl. 25 1854 Attending Court

Wednesday Apl. 26 Attending Court—heavy rain

Thursday Apl. 27 Attending Court—Rained heavy last night  
Very heavy rain this aft

—and became cold in the afternoon

Friday Apl. 28 Cold night. Some ice this morning—Took tea at Judge Walkers—Called at Dr Halls after—

Saturday Apl. 29 Frost this morning, but pleasant day. After dinner took the stage for home. Supper at Mt. Sterling & traveled all night

Quincy

Sunday—Apl. 30 1854 Reached home this morning at 6 O'clock. Found Mr Harris of Macomb, old school preacher, at my house—Fine day—Attended Church in afternoon and at night—

Monday—May 1. Fine warm day—Mr. Harris left this morning

Tuesday May 2 At work in office & preparing to leave for Kentucky tomorrow—Rained some last night, and became cooler, but very fine day.

Wednesday May 3. At 2½ P. M. took passage on the Ben Campbell on my way to Kentucky

†St.  
Louis

Thursday May 4 1854 Reached St Louis at 11 A. M. Engaged passage on the Steamer Pike for Louisville—then went to the Planters to dinner, where I met with Gov Crittenden<sup>1</sup> of Kentucky—was introduced to him and passed some time very pleasantly in his company. At 5 P. M. left for Louisville—Weather fine

Friday May 5. At 7½ this morning entered the mouth of the Ohio

\*Saturday May 6 Running in the Ohio all day—weather delightful & reached Louisville sometime during the night

†Louis-  
ville

\*Sunday May 7 1854 Lying at Louisville this morning when I awoke—Went to Galt House, but could not get a room, & had to come to Louisville Hotel where I now am

Attended Dr Breckenridges Church this morning & heard old Mr Barnes preach

Lexing-  
ton

\*Monday May 8 Left Louisville on the cars at 6 this morning & reached Lexington at 11. Stopped at brother Marcus, and amused myself walking about Town till dinner. Saw of Suffolk sow, a few months old, sell at public auction at \$102 cash. Also saw a negro man sold at public auction in the Court House yard. Although I am not sensible in any change in my views upon the abstract question of slavery, many of its features,

<sup>1</sup>John J. Crittenden, 1787-1863. United States senator from Kentucky 1817-1819, 1835-1841, 1842-1848, 1855-1861; representative in 37th Congress; attorney general of the United States, 1841, 1850-1853; governor of Kentucky, 1848-1850.

that they are no longer familiar, make a much more vivid impression of wrong than they did before I had lived away from the influence of the institution. I can have no doubt of the abstract injustice of human slavery, and as little that, whilst the negroes remain in the country, the good of whites & blacks is alike consulted by preserving the present relations between them. I am not a prophet to say what shall be the issue of the matter, but have an abiding faith that God, in his wisdom, will, in due time, bring good from this great evil

Tuesday May 9 1854 Sister Ann & Dr Robertson<sup>1</sup> came to dinner to day. I went home with them & staid all night

Wednesday May 10 At Dr Robertson's. Rained all day & could not get out.

Thursday May 11 After breakfast, being supplied with horse & buggy drove to Rev Jno H. Browns & remained an hour or two with Mrs B. he not being at home.

Returned to the city & dined at M's.

x ————— x x

After dinner visited a negro jail—a very large brick building with all the conveniences of comfortable life, including hospital. Tis a place where negroes are kept for sale—Outer doors & windows all protected with iron grates, but inside the appointments are not only comfortable, but in many respects luxurious. Many of the rooms are well carpeted & furnished, & very neat, and the inmates whilst here are treated with great indulgence & humanity, but I confess it impressed me with the idea of decorating the ox for the sacrifice. In several of the rooms I found very handsome mulatto women, of fine persons and easy genteel manners, sitting at their needle work awaiting a purchaser. The proprietor made them get up & turn round to show to advantage their finely developed & graceful forms—and slaves as they were this I confess rather shocked my gallantry. I enquired the price of one girl which was \$1600.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dr. William B. Robertson. Husband of Browning's youngest sister, Anna Davis Browning.

<sup>2</sup>Violet ink has been used to set off the passage beginning "inside the appointments," and ending "one girl which was \$1600."

In afternoon Mrs Simpson & Mrs Brassfield came down from Winchester and we all drove out to Mrs O'Bannons

\*Friday May 12 A number of friends here to day—Mrs Simpson, Mrs Brassfield, Mrs Scott & Mrs Livingston among others

Saturday May 13. Dined at Marcus. After dinner Mrs Simpson & Mary who had come over from Richmond & Mrs Brassfield, left for Winchester

Sunday May 14 Marcus & Judge Simpson came out after breakfast & remained an hour or so. The Judge being on his return from St. Louis.

Monday, May 15 1854 Uncle Leach came & spent the day. After dinner James Caldwell came & remained an hour or two. Ann O'Bannon & I went to Dr Robertsons & staid all night

Tuesday May 16 Returned from Dr Robertsons—Stopped in Town & called to see Mrs Jouett & Mrs Menefee & came on home to dinner

Wednesday May 17 Very heavy thunder & rain last night, & frequent showers thro the day—So cold as to make it necessary to keep fires all day

Dr Robertson & sister Ann, two Miss Robertsons Miss Lewis & Miss Mary Allen spent the day with us. Brother Marcus came to dinner. Late in the afternoon I bade them all farewell at my mothers & came to Town—took tea at Marcus' and am now at the Broadway hotel expecting to take the cars for Louisville in the morning on my way home. I leave Ky, with a heavier heart than ever before, as it is not probable, in the course of human events, that I will ever see my dear old mother on this earth again. She is now in her 74th year & very frail & cannot last long. But the bitterness of parting is over & I am glad of it. I would not willingly pass through the scene again.

Thursday May 18 1854 Left Lexington on the cars this morning at 6 O'clock for Louisville on my way home. About half way down met brother Milton on the upward train, on his way to visit my mother & friends. Reached Louisville at 11 A. M & took passage on the Steamer Lady Pike for St. Louis

Lexington

†Lexington

†Lexington

Yesterday & to day have been so cold as to make fire necessary to comfort—

Friday May 19 On the River, getting on prosperously. Entered the Mississippi just after night & continued to run all night

St  
Louis

Saturday May 20 1854 At 9 P. M. reached St Louis—& took lodgings at Planters House.

\*Sunday May 21 Attended Dr Rice's church this morning & heard him preach to a very crowded house. His sermon was excellent but very plain & inornate. No attempt whatever at display

Took tea at Mrs Barretts

Monday May 22 \*In St. Louis—Dined with Don Morrison & some others at Bartlings—Took tea at Mrs Barretts & attended opera at the varieties at night, to hear Madam Debris

Tuesday May 23 1854 Called at Mrs Bennetts for Miss Nannie Barrett who went with me to do some shopping for Mrs Browning, and made my arrangements to start home. At 4 P M took passage on Steamer Westerner for home—

Wednesday May 24 Reached home at 11 A M & found all well

\*Thursday May 25 Called with Wood, Bushnell, Cox & others at Dr Blatchfords in reference to school which we are endeavoring to establish, and then went to examine ground for building—\*Cloudy warm weather

Quincy

Friday May 26 1853 Some rain last night & warm & cloudy. Beautiful eclipse of the sun to day. I commenced about 3 O'clock P. M. and by 4 the sun, examined through a smoked glass, was a beautiful crescent, with its horns to the north. The afternoon was cloudy, but the sun occasionally emerged, and gave most favourable opportunities for the examination of the eclipse. At 20 minutes to 5 the horns pointed to the zenith

Saturday May 27 At work in office. very warm day

Quincy

Sunday May 28 1854 Attended Mr McCandlishes Church morning & afternoon & Mr Marks at night where Mr Potter preached Heavy rain during the night



\*Monday May 29 At work in office

Tuesday May 30 At work. Mrs B & self took tea at Mr Farmers Afterwards I went to Theatre to hear play of the Hunch Back. Mrs. Duff in Julia played well—others poor concerns

Wednesday May 31 At work in office—Cox & wife dined & took tea with us

\*Thursday June 1 1854 Bright but cool day. Spent the evening at Sam Church's at a little party

Friday June 2 At work in office

Saturday June 3 At work in office—Warm day

\*Sunday June 4 Very warm. Attended church in morning & heard Mr McCandlish preach. Expected to have gone to Warsaw on packet this morning on my way to Carthage, but was left. Just at night Wheat & myself got on board Minesota Belle & reached Warsaw at 3 O'clock

Carthage

Monday June 5 1854 Reached at Warsaw at 3 O'clock this morning—Stopped at Wilsons hotel—went to bed & slept till 6. After breakfast called at Roosevelts, and waited till hack with Wheat & Stephens in called for me—All went on to Carthage where we arrived about 10 A. M. I stopped at A. Hamiltons. Commenced raining just before we arrived & continued briskly till middle afternoon. Concluded to try no cases except criminal & exparte, & hope to get home the last of this week. Williams & Singleton are already gone.

†Carthage

Tuesday June 6 1854 Rain thro the night & again to day—So cool that I have fire in my room morning & evening This afternoon commenced trial of Indit vs I. W. Johnson for Larceny Walker & myself for defense

Wednesday June 7—Very cloudy, cool day, drizzling rain. Have fire in the Court room. Progressing with the case vs Johnson. Evidence closed, and argued by Schofield for People & in part by Mr Walker for defence

Thursday June 8 Argued case vs Johnson—Concluded by Warren for the prosecution & verdict for Deft not guilty in about 15 minutes Cool day but bright

Warsaw Friday June 9 1854 Tried case in Court in the morning. After dinner attended circus & then came down to Warsaw with Brawner—Found Mrs Browning at Roosevelts, & staid there all night

Saturday June 10 Mrs B & self dined at Roosevelts. After dinner went to Wagleys & remained till the packet Westerner came up & took passage on her for home about 4½ P. M. but she had engaged freight above the rapids & went to Fort Madison for a load, where, of course, we had to go with her. \*Got up there at 10 Oclock at night

Quincy Sunday June 11 1854 Were taking on freight at Fort Madison through the night, & left there this morning with two large flat boats, filled with grain, in tow. At Keokuk all had to be transferred to the steamer which detained us till after dinner, & we did not reach home till about 6 O'clock P. M.

\*Monday June 12 Pleasant day. At work in Office—Old Jack Miles of Warren County took supper with me, and at night Mrs B & self & family attended at Kendalls Hall, exhibition of Baynes panorama—Beautiful painting, presenting chiefly scenes on the Mercey, the Thames & the Rhine

Quincy June 13 1854 Fine day—At work in the office

Wednesday June 14 Very bright & warmest day of the season

At work in office

Thursday June 15 At work in office. At night went with Miss Dora Howells to the Court House to hear Mrs Gage lecture on womans rights. She is a woman of a good deal of talent—an easy fluent, & rather impressive speaker, but a little too ornate. She uttered some truths upon the subject of female education, but her leading idea, a change of places & pursuits between men & women is an absurdity

Quincy I never heard a woman make a speech in public before and I am not sure that I will ever again. The impressions made upon my feelings were extremely unpleasant. She was out of place. I couldn't help asking myself, & shrinking from the question, how I would like to see mother, sister or wife make such an

exhibition. It is too great a violation of my instincts of female decorum & delicacy to admit of any enjoyment. Woman was never designed for such pursuits, & when she embarks in them she violates her nature & can do no good.

If women must lecture I prefer to patronize good curtain lectures, & think them far less offensive and injurious than these public displays

†Quincy

Friday June 16 1854 Rained heavily last night. Warm day. At work in office.

Coxs, Jonas, & Asburys & Mrs & Miss Brown of St Louis, took tea with us. Mrs Cox & I then went to hear Mrs Gage lecture on the legal & political rights of woman—A great humbug—I mean the theory—the woman talks well, but she's a humbug too

Saturday 17 At 11 A. M. took passage on Westerner on my way to Galesburg to attend Commencement. At 4 P. M. reached Keokuk. After night drove round rapids in a coach & took passage at 10 O'clock on the McKee—has been a very hot day

†Bur-  
lington

Sunday June 18 1854 At 3½ O'clock this morning arrived at Burlington, where I design spending the day with my brother. I stopped at the Barret House where I now am awaiting breakfast \*After breakfast went to my brothers & at 11 A. M. in company with Cousin James Browning<sup>1</sup> to the O. S. Pres: Church.

Dined & took tea at Milton's, & staid all night at Barret House

Monday June 19 At 1 O'clock this morning took passage on Jenny Lind for Oquawka. Reached there at day break, breakfasted at the Pioneer House, then took stage for Monmouth where I arrived at 11½ O'clock A. M. & stopped at Claycombs tavern.

†Mon-  
mouth

Tuesday June 20 1854 Remained in Monmouth yesterday afternoon & called at Rankins & Hardins.

Yesterday & last night were very warm & threatening rain.  
this morning  
Just after breakfast, had a heavy shower, accompanied by some

<sup>1</sup>James Browning. Which of several cousins of this name is meant, cannot be told.

thunder. I am awaiting arrival of the stage from Oquawka, intending, when it comes to go on to Galesburg.

\*Between 4 & 5 P. M. stage came along, & I took passage for Galesburg. The coach was crowded & the roads bad, and we did not arrive until near 10 O'clock. Mr Gale<sup>1</sup> called for me at the hotel & took me to his house

Wednesday June 21 1854 Lovely day. The board of trustees in session & most of my time engaged with them. In afternoon attended the annual meeting of one of the Societies which was addressed by a Dr Curtis of Cincinnati—a quack alike in Medicine, Science, literature & oratory. At night was present at the annual meeting of another of the Societies, where addresses were delivered & papers read by the young man, all of which were highly creditable, evincing the possession of such talent and energy as ought to make them valuable members of society

Thursday June 22 1854 Board met again this morning & transacted business until time for the college exercises to begin, this being commencement day.

A class of seven graduated, and masters degree conferred on 8 or 10 more. The exercises were very interesting—when completed we all marched to a hotel in Town where a public dinner was prepared, and after partaking of which I addressed the meeting for hour much to their apparent delight. Mrs Bettie Knox came up here to day to see me, and after the company retired from the table, about 4 O'clock, Dr Selden & myself drove down to Knoxville and took tea with Mrs Knox—her father & mother, (Mr & Mrs Johnston) being with her. After tea returned to Galesburg

\*Friday June 23 After breakfast left Galesburg on my way home going by the way of Oquawka in a hack engaged for the purpose by Mr Strong of Oquawka, one of the Alumni of the College, Mr White of Jersey County, one of the graduating class, who had his sister, Mrs Allen of St Louis & her child & servant with him, and myself.

The day was bright & warm but a fine breeze circulating made it pleasant traveling. We dined at Mr Blacks, 5 miles west of

<sup>1</sup>George W. Gale, 1789-1861. A chief founder of Knox College; from 1840 to 1857 a professor in it.

Monmouth, in Warren County, an agreeable and intelligent Presbyterian family & then drove on to Oquawka, where we arrived about 5 p. m. & stopped at Barnes tavern

Saturday June 24 Pleasant morning—awaiting the arrival of the little steamer McKee on her downward trip, that I may take passage for home \*Boarded her at 10 A. M. at 2 P. M. reached Montrose—took hack to Keokuk where met the West-erner & took passage on her for home. Lay at Keokuk till after midnight

†Quincy

Sunday June 25 1854 Reached home at 8 O'clock this morning. Heard Mr McCandlish preach in morning & Mr Marks at night

The weather is very warm, and has been for several days

Mrs Browning has in the house, taking care of them, Mrs Rowland, (a poor widow) & her children—

Monday June 26 At work in office—Very warm

Tuesday June 27 At work in office

Wednesday June 28 At work in office—Continues very warm. Mr Spangler who has been reading in the office, left to day, for his fathers in Mercer County—will return in Sept.

†Quincy

Thursday June 29 1854 At work in office—Very warm. Mr McCandlish & family & Mr Chase's of Macomb took tea with us.

Friday June 30 Still excessively warm. Mrs Browning & myself went out to Cox's to supper—& returned at 10 O'clock at night

†Quincy

\*Saturday July 1 1854 Very warm day. At work in office

Sunday July 2 Attended Mr McCandlishs Church in the morning & afternoon. This, I believe, is the hottest day of the season

Monday July 3. At 8 this morning Mr Williams & myself took passage on the Jeannie Deans for Alton, on our way to Springfield, to attend the U S Court. Dr Blatchford with us on his way to Galena to lay cornerstone of a Theological Seminary. Very warm day, but had pleasant trip down. Reached Alton at 10 p. m. & stopped at Alton House—



ton Tuesday July 4 1854 Passed a wearisome night—Had a small hot & dirty room, and a bed alive with bugs. At 10 this morning took the cars for Springfield—dined at Virden & arrived here at 2 p. m Took lodgings at Mrs Enos—Mr Williams Jack Grimshaw & myself being here

\*Wednesday July 5 Attending Court. Tried the case of Hobbs vs Strickler et als—Judgt for Defts—Judge McLean arrived to day, & has taken lodging with us at Mrs Enos No abatement of the heat

ing- Thursday July 6 1854 Attending Court. Tried case of Robinson vs Lorenzo Gard—& commenced Brainard vs Dixon. \*At a small party at Van Bergens in the evening

Friday July 7. Mr Williams too much indisposed to attend Court, and we have continued most of our cases. At 2 p. m. Judge McLean started home to attend the wedding of Miss Ludlow who is to be married on Monday next to Mr Hunt of N. O.

In Brainard vs Dixon verdict rendered for Deft—Williams & Schofield for Pltf—Browning for Deft

ng- Saturday July 8 1854 Commenced trial of the case of Turner vs Freeman. The weather continues very warm & dry—For more than two weeks there has been but little variation in the temperature ranging all the time much above the average heat of our summers, and we have no rain to mitigate it. We may expect it to be productive of sickness—The cholera is prevailing here now to a limited extent among the foreign population, and has been for some time. Several deaths occurring each day

g- Sunday July 9 1854 A little rain fell last night and the atmosphere is cool and pleasant this morning

Attended Mr Dodges Church morning & evening

Monday July 10 Attended Court in forenoon & completed trial of Turner vs Freeman Verdict for Deft

In the afternoon went to a grove South of Town to hear Cassius M Clay<sup>1</sup> address the people on the subject of slavery.

<sup>1</sup>Cassius M. Clay, 1810-1903. Whig emancipationist of Kentucky whose career as an abolitionist editor bore some resemblance to that of William Lloyd Garrison or Elijah P. Lovejoy, though he was less extreme than these men; became United States minister to Russia in 1861 but resigned in 1862 to become major general of volunteers in the Union army.

He is a pretty strong, vigorous speaker, but by no means elegant or eloquent, & somewhat erratic.

C. B. Lawrence of Quincy arrived this evening

†Spring-  
field

\*Tuesday July 11 1854 Attending Court. Have had another warm dry day

\*Wednesday July 12 Attending Court

\*Thursday July 13 Attending Court. A very warm day & dry

In the evening attended a large party at Jack Smiths—One of the pleasantest that it has been my privilege to be at. in Springfield

\*Friday July 14 Attending Court. About thro with business & hope to start home in the morning

†Spring-  
field &  
Quincy

\*Saturday July 15 1854 Closed my business in Court this morning & at 11½ O'clock took the cars for Alton on my way home. The day was hot & the dust on the rail road very annoying. \*Reached Alton about 4 P. M. & stopped at Franklin House, where I remained till 8, when I took passage on the Jeannie Deans for home—

Sunday, July 16 Reached home without accident at 1 P. M. & found all well. There have been a few cases of Cholera during my absence, but only a few, and tis not likely to become epidemical This has been the hottest day of the season

\*Monday July 17 1854 At home & at work in office

Tuesday 18—At work in office

Wednesday 19. At work in office. No abatement of the heat. Each day ranges from 90 to 100

Thursday 20 At work in office. Had a fine rain this afternoon, which has greatly refreshed the earth & moderated the heat.

\*Friday 21. Andrew Johnston & his sister Miss Olivia, arrived to breakfast this morning, from Richmond Va. Have spent the day with them. Williams & Cox dined & John Wood took tea with us.

Saturday—July 22 1854 Pleasant day. Have not done much work to day, Johnson & his sister being with us

Sunday July 23 Attended Church in the morning—About noon had a very fine rain

Monday July 24 At work in office—Very hot

Tuesday July 25 At work in office

Wednesday July 26 At work in office. James Mathews of Warsaw came down to day, to spend some days with Johnston at my house

Thursday July 27 1854 At home most of the day with my friends

\*Friday, July 28 At work in office

Saturday July 29 Mathews, Johnston, myself & some others, dined at Pearsons. Excessively hot

Sunday July 30 Attended Church in the morning

This has been, I believe, the hottest day of the season. The early part of the night was particularly oppressive

Monday July 31 1854 At work in the office. Not at all cooler than yesterday.

Johnston goes to day to Mr Lawrence's to spend a week. Miss Olivia remains with us, not feeling sufficiently well to go to the country

Cox & his wife took tea with us

Tuesday. Augt 1. 1854 Mr Mathews left us this morning. He started in the stage before day for Warsaw. No change in the temperature—Continues excessively hot—

Wednesday Augt 2 Another very hot day. After tea Miss Olivia Johnston & myself called at Mr Erskines & Dr Singletons.

Thursday Augt 3. More pleasant today than it has been for sometime past. In the evening Miss Olivia & self called at Mr Pearsons & Mr Moores. Bushnell got home from Boston to day

Friday Augt 4 1854 Pleasant day—Not so hot as it has been. Attended a party at Lawrences at night. Very beautiful moonlight night, calm & pleasant

Saturday Augt 5 At work in office—Dry & warm. Johnston who had been passing a few nights at Lawrence's returned to my house to day

Sunday Augt 6 Attended church in the morning, but not out afterwards Warm day, but turned cool in the night, & threatened rain but gave us none.

Monday Augt 7 1854 Very cool & pleasant to day—At work in the office.

Tuesday Augt 8 Mrs Browning, Johnston, Miss Johnston & self attended small party at Savages

\*Wednesday Augt 9 Some rain this morning & quite cool. In the evening went with Mrs Cox to call at Dr Blatchfords—beautiful night

\*Thursday Augt 10 Quite warm again to day All attended party at Cox's in the evening. Beautiful night. Returned home about midnight

\*Friday Augt 11 1854 Very warm day, probably as high a degree of heat as we have had this summer. Heavy thunder storm & some rain at night

Mrs B, Johnston & myself took tea, at Sam Church's. Miss Olivia too unwell to go

\*Saturday August 12 Fine rain this morning but warm day.

Whig meeting at the Court House at 2 P. M. and nominated delegates to attend Congressional Convention next week

\*Sunday, Augt 13 1852 Another hot day. Attended Church in the morning, but was not out again Mrs B being quite indisposed

Monday Augt 14 Pleasant morning. After breakfast took a ride with Miss Johnston, & then at work in the office. Very heavy thunder storm & fine rain at night

\*Tuesday Augt 15 Remarkably fine day. At work in office

Wednesday Augt 16 Cooler than it has been for two months—gloomy, drizzly afternoon

\*Thursday Augt 17. 1854 Very pleasant day—Small party of 30 or 40 friends at my house at night

Friday Augt 18 Whig convention met here to day & nominated A. Williams Esqr for Congress. I was greatly importuned to be a candidate, and could easily have had the nomination but declined it—Chiles of Calhoun, Dr Baker of Pike, Welsh of Hancock & Stewart of Henderson dined with me

\*Singleton predicts a majority of 3000 for Richardson & promises to give me a 1000 <sup>lbs</sup> pork this fall, if the majority is less All took tea & spent the evening at Pearsons

\*Saturday Augt 19 1854 Very warm day, Mr I B Matthews arrived yesterday, and will remain with us for a few days

\*Sunday Augt 20 I was indisposed last night—took medicine and have remained at home all day under its influence

The day has been very warm. For more than two months past the weather has been uniformly hot, with very little variation in temperature—scarcely any rain, & no dew. The grass is as dry at sun rise as sun set, and I have never known the country so injured by drouth

\*Monday Augt 21 1854 Another very warm day—At work in the office

Tuesday Augt 22 No abatement of the heat

\*Wednesday Augt 23 Andrew Johnston Esqr, & his sister Miss Olivia left us this morning on their return home to Richmond Va: They took the packet for St. Louis, intending to remain there a few days, and then go by the northern route home. Another very hot day

Thursday Augt 24 At work in office. Hot

Friday Augt 25 1854 At work in office. Still hot

Saturday Augt 26 Very hot day—at work in office

\*Sunday Augt 27 Attended church in morning was not out in afternoon. No abatement of the heat.

Monday Augt 28 One of the hottest days of the season, & no rain. At work in office

\*Tuesday 29 Excessively hot. Miss Ellen Collins spent the day with us—\*Took her home in buggy just after night

Wednesday Augt 30 No change in the weather—At work in office.



\*Thursday Aug 31 This has been the hottest day of the season—

Every thing is dry & parched with no prospect whatever of rain

Quincy Friday September 1 1854 Took medicine last night & have kept my room to day. Still excessively hot—at night a house burnt over near State Street in Seventh

\*Saturday—Sept 2 At work in office—No change in the weather

Sunday Sept 3 Attended church morning & evening. The forepart of the night, I think, was the hottest of the season

\*Monday Sept 4. At work in office—No change in the weather. Some clouds in afternoon & a beautiful rain bow—

Quincy \*Tuesday Sept 5 1854 Hot as ever. A very slight shower at noon

Wednesday Sept 6 Went to Columbus today with Ben Prentiss.<sup>1</sup> He went to attend Maine Law alliance, and I to see the people, and talk a little about politics. Some rain in afternoon but not much. Got back home before dark. The day was cloudy & pleasant, threatening rain

\*Thursday Sept 7 Something cooler than it has been—Cloudy & promising rain in the morning, but giving none

Afternoon again very warm

Quincy Friday, Sept 8 1854 Another excessively warm day. Cloudy but no rain. At work in office

Saturday Sept 9 Turned cool in the night, & warm clothing quite comfortable today. Very cloudy & misting

\*Sunday Sept 10 Attended Church in morning—Cool, pleasant day.

Monday Sept 11 Took passage on Steamer Sam Gaty for St. Louis. Mr McCandlish aboard on his way to Ohio. Warm day. Late in afternoon rained heavily

<sup>1</sup>Benjamin M. Prentiss, 1819-1901. Born in Virginia; went in 1835 to Missouri and in 1841 to Quincy; rope maker; captain in the Mexican War; served as colonel, brigadier and brevet major general in the Civil War, 1861-1863. His father was murdered in Quincy in 1850 by Austin West. *Quincy Whig*, January 1, June 4, 1850, October 13, 1854.

St.  
ouis

Tuesday Sept 12 1854 About 1 O'clock this morning ran on a sand bar at mouth of Illinois River, & did not get off till 9 A. M. Came on without further accident & reached St. Louis at 2 P. M.

Stopped at Planters House

\*Attended Varieties Theatre at night, & heard Mrs Farren in Ogarita, or the Sea of ice. Poor play & poorly played.

Wednesday Sept 13 Doing errands until noon—Then called on Mrs Bull & Mrs Barrets family—Found Mary Simpson at Mrs Barrets—had just arrived & was on her way up Missouri River with Sam Taylor. At 4 P. M. started home on S. B. Sam Gaty.

Quincy

Thursday Sept 14 1854 Has been considerable rain within the last few days, and has become quite cool. Have found it necessary to put on drawers today for first time for 3 months.

Reached home at 5 P. M. Mrs Wagley at my house. She, Mrs B & self took tea at Nat Lanes

Friday Sept 15 Quite cool. Fire necessary to *my* comfort, but warm enough through the day & clear

Saturday Sept: 16 Beautiful day, but quite cool. \*In afternoon took passage on S. B. Sam Gaty, on my way to Oquawka to Court. Reached Keokuk at 11 at night & took stage round rapids

Oquaw-  
ka

\*Sunday Sept 17 1854 At 2 O'clock this morning got on board S. B. I McKee at Montrose for Oquawka. The night was quite cold, making over coat necessary coming round the rapids—At 10 A. M. arrived at Oquawka, & stopped at Barnes hotel.

Monday Sept 18 Court commenced. At noon adjourned till tomorrow. In the afternoon Mr. Williams & Col Richardson candidates for Congress in this district addressed the people at the Court House.

Tuesday Sept 19 Attending Court—

Oquaw-  
ka

Wednesday Sept 20 1854 Attending Court. At night addressed a large audience of ladies & gentlemen for 2½ hours at McKinneys hall on the Missouri Compromise & Nebraska bill

Cold enough for fire

Thursday Sept 21 Court adjourned about 11 O'clock A. M.

\*In afternoon got Barnes to take me to Burlington in a buggy, & staid all night at my brothers.

Friday Sept 22 Left Burlington at noon on the Ben Campbell, which brot me to Montrose—Came round rapids in Coach.

†Quincy

Arrived at Keokuk before night, & remained at St. Charles Hotel till 9 at night & then took passage on the Prairie State for home.

Saturday Sept 23 Reached home to breakfast. All well & weather fine, but there have been some ten or twelve deaths of Cholera. Among others Arthur Hoffman & Mary Eliza Wells—These two were very sudden & violent cases, and all that have yet occurred among the American Citizens

Sunday Sept 24 Attended Mr Marks church in the morning. Mr Potters at night—very warm day

†Quincy

Monday Sept 25 1854 At work in office. Beautiful day, but very warm. Some cholera still prevailing. Capt Morgan's wife died today

\*Tuesday Sept 26 At 4 O'clock this morning was sent for by Col Singleton who was supposed to have the Cholera. Found him very sick, but not dangerous. Wrote his will for him, after which he improved rapidly

Mrs B & self took tea at Mr Collins

Has been another very warm day

Quincy

Wednesday Sept 27 1854 At work in office—very hot & dry

Thursday Sept 28 Same as yesterday

\*Friday Sept 29 At work in office—Continues excessively hot.

Saturday 30 Something cooler this morning—Cloudy & giving promise of rain. \*Afternoon and night very warm—

Sunday

Sunday October 1 1854 Rain last night & this morning. Attended church in the forenoon—& at 3 P. M. took passage on the Steamer Sam Gaty for Warsaw on my way to Hancock Court.

†Warsaw  
& Carthage

Reached Warsaw at 9 p. m. & stopped at Wilsons tavern. Heavy rain in the night

Monday Oct. 2. This morning came from Warsaw to Carthage in Baldwins omnibus—arrived at 12 and stopped at Artois Hamiltons. After dinner Col Richardson dem: candidate for Congress in this district addressed the people in favor of Nebraska bill. When he was done I was called for, but Court was about to open, and I am to speak on Wednesday night,

Carthage

Tuesday October 3 1854 Attending Court. A very heavy storm of thunder, lightning wind & rain last night, and blowing a gale all day.

Wednesday Oct 4 Attending Court. To night I was to have addressed the people at the Court House, but as Douglass is to be here on Monday I have postponed it till then, when I expect to reply to him

Thursday Oct 5 Attending Court. Beautiful day—Clear & pleasant

Friday Oct 6 1854 Attending Court—Clear—very warm. In the afternoon Lawrence and I went in the stage to La Harpe, where we addressed the people at night on the subject of the Missouri Compromise & the coming election.

There was a large assemblage of people, ladies and gentlemen, at the Methodist Church & after a speech from Lawrence I addressed them for two hours. Staid all night at Claycombs tavern

\*Saturday Oct 7. Returned this morning to Carthage, with Simmons, the whig candidate for Sheriff in this County. Beautiful weather

Sunday Oct 8 1854 At Hamiltons in Carthage. Kept my room all day—being no preaching in the place—

Monday Oct 9 Judge Douglass arrived today to meet an appointment previously made to address the people. He stopped at Hamiltons, where I am boarding & immediately after dinner came into my room to make some mutual arrangement for speaking as I was announced to reply to him. We remained alone in conversation upon this & other subjects for nearly an hour. The first thing considered was the length of time which each should

occupy, and neither of us wished to be limited to a less time than two hours. I proposed that the Judge in his opening speech should occupy an hour & a half—that I should follow two hours, and he should reply for half an hour. This he declined, and then proposed on his part that he should take an hour for his opening speech, I following for an hour & a half, and he replying for an hour. I refused, of course, to accede to this proposition, which gave him both the opening and conclusion, and one third more time than I had.

He then said that if there was an equal division of time I ought to begin—speak two hours, and let him conclude in two hours more—This of course I rejected as there was no sort of mutuality in the proposition. We thus failed to come to any satisfactory arrangement, and separated on the understanding that he should speak as long as he chose, and I should afterwards do the same thing<sup>1</sup>

Accordingly at 2 P. M. in the Court House square, North of the Court House he spoke to about 800 or 1000 people for two & a half hours. When he concluded they gave him three cheers—not very unanimous or enthusiastic, and then commenced a long and ardent call for me—I was compelled to take the stand—It was nearly 5 O'clock and I announced to the audience that it was then too late to enter upon a reply to Judge Douglass, and a discussion of the important questions now before the Country, but that at candle lighting I would meet & address them at the Court House. Then went up three deafening cheers for me. Then some one called out "three cheers for the Nebraska bill", but they were not given. Some half dozen attempted it—gave one feeble shout & broke down—\*The crowd then dispersed—At candle-lighting the people again assembled at the Court house—It was crowded to overflowing, one side being filled with ladies, every nook & corner was full—The jury rooms were filled, and the hall outside the door far down upon the stairway—I addressed them for 2 &  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and in favour of its restoration. There was profound attention

<sup>1</sup>Douglas knew Browning's campaigning ability by experience from their congressional contest in 1843 and was maneuvering for all possible advantage.



& much enthusiasm in the meeting, and when I concluded a prolonged & deafening shout of applause—There was no call for any other after I was done. Judge Douglass did not come out—and was not present to hear my reply. Towards the conclusion of my remarks much merriment was occasioned by my reply to his assault upon the Know nothings, who he had attacked and denounced very fiercely

Tuesday Oct 10 1854 Attending Court—Have tried several cases today.

The weather is beautiful—clear, warm & dry.

\*Wednesday Oct 11 Attending Court. A very warm day & some rain during the night—

Thursday Oct 12 Attending Court. Heavy rain today. Warm and thundering & raining now at night

\*Friday Oct 13 Am through with Court & ready to start home after dinner. \*Went in Baldwins hack to Warsaw—took tea at Roosevelts & at 8½ p. m. got on board Prairie State for home

Saturday, Oct 14 1854 Heavy rains last night. Reached home at 7 O'clock this morning—Found Mrs B quite ill. In the hands of the physician—Pretty day

Sunday Oct 15 Frost this morning—the first of the season—beautiful day.

Attended Mr Marks church in the morning, Mr McCandlish being absent at Synod. In the evening attended at same place to hear Billings, Unitarian minister, lecture to the Young men. He is rather a shallow pated coxcomb

\*Monday Oct 16 1854 Court commenced in Quincy this morning. I had expected to go to Schuyler Court, which also begins today, but Mrs Brownings indisposition, & our Court have kept me at home. Lawrence goes over & will attend to some of my cases, and I have written to Hay to take charge of others  
Weather fine

Tuesday Oct 17 Attending Court. At night went to circus & animal show with Miss Ellen Collins, who staid all night with us—

The chief object of going was to take Emma, who had never seen such a thing

Wednesday Oct 18 1854 Attending Court in forenoon—At dinner adjourned over to afford all an opportunity of attending the agricultural fair—which I did in the afternoon. The day was fine, and a very gratifying & successful beginning of agricultural exhibition

At night Singleton addressed the people at Kendalls Hall upon the Nebraska question. He spoke for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours—when he closed I was loudly called for, and addressed the people for an hour & a half.

There was a large meeting & decided indications against the Nebraskaites

Thursday Oct 19 1854 Court adjourned early this morning on account of the fair which I attended both in the forenoon & afternoon. The day was unpropitious—Cold wind blowing & some rain, but still the exhibition was successful & gratifying—At night Mr Williams addressed the people at Kendall's Hall on the Nebraska question—When he concluded I was loudly called for, but declined speaking and Jonas held forth for half an hour—

\*Friday Oct 20 1854 Attending Court

Saturday Oct 21 Attending Court. In the afternoon Hon Joshua Giddings<sup>1</sup> of Ohio addressed the People at Kendall Hall on the Nebraska bill, and again at night. He is not a fine speaker—not an orator—but a man of vigorous mind, and told a great many plain truths in a terse & pithy way well calculated to have effect, and altogether I think his speeches will be attended with good results. He was sometimes quite humorous

\*Sunday Oct 22 1854 Heavy rain last night, & some again through the day. Attended Church in morning—not out in the afternoon.

Monday Oct 23 Attending Court. Warm cloudy day

<sup>1</sup>Joshua Giddings, 1795-1864. Representative 25th to 35th congresses from Ohio; for years the sole aggressive opponent of slavery in Congress.

\*Tuesday Oct 24 1854 Attending Court. Miss Andrea Lange was married this morning to Revd. James M. Chase of Macomb. I did not attend, being engaged in Court.

Attended at Kendalls Hall at night & heard W<sup>m</sup> Carlin<sup>1</sup> make a Nebraska speech

\*Wednesday Oct 25 1854 Attending Court

Thursday Oct 26 Attending Court. Commenced trial of Miss Mary Jane Orton vs Thompson Norton for breach of marriage promise

Friday Oct 27 Attending Court—Proceeding with trial of the case commenced yesterday

Saturday 28 I made concluding argument \*for Pltf Orton vs Norton—Spoke three hours—Jury gave verdict for \$1000 damages—Weather continues warm & very fine

\*Sunday Oct 29 1854 Attended Church as usual in the morning. At night went to hear Mr Foot preach on the fugitive slave law. He made an interesting talk of over an hour, pretty well seasoned with the higher law doctrine.

Rainy evening and not a very full attendance.

<sup>1</sup>Probably William H. Carlin, son of Governor Thomas Carlin; he was appointed by Buchanan postmaster at Quincy after Douglas' break with the administration. Carlin's position was touchingly commented upon by John Reynolds in a letter given in the *Quincy Whig* of September 13, 1858.

"Belleville, Aug. 29, 1858

"DEAR FRIEND:—I greet you with respect and friendship in your deliverance from the sin and sorrow that must be experienced in the support of treason. You are disenthralled and cleansed from traitors; and are breathing the pure and holy air of National Democracy. You are sinless, standing in the midst of the great Democratic family of the Union, whose head is Buchanan, and whose glorious work is to preserve the Union from the Abolitionists and traitors

"I am exceedingly well pleased that you are Postmaster at Quincy, and still better pleased that you have started a paper to sustain the National Democracy of the Union. You are now eating bread at the table of the President, and it is not in the blood of a Carlin to be ungrateful to benefactors. Your antecedents authorize me to say, that you never will be a deserter from Democratic principles, that were instilled into you by both your father and mother. Your honored and respected sire would feel uneasy in his grave, were he to know one of his sons deserted from the Jackson-Buchanan Democracy of the Union.

"Persevere Sir: sustain the present Administration and repel by your paper all assaults made on it by either traitors or the common enemy."

Monday Oct 30 Rain last night & rain this morning—At night went with Miss Ellen Collins to musical concert at Kendall's Hall Concert given by our own citizens under the direction of a *Professor Root*

Tuesday Oct 31 1854 Attending Court—Cloudy day—mist-ing a little & turning cool.

\*Wednesday Nov 1 1854 Attending Court. Beautiful day. A. Lincoln Esqr of Springfield arrived in Town last night. Dined & took tea with me, and at night addressed the People at Kendall's Hall on the Nebraska question

\*Thursday Nov 2 Weather still fine—Attending Court

Mrs Browning moved across the hall. Mr Palmers family are moving into our house. They slept in the house at night for the first time

Friday Nov 3 1854 Misty, cool day. Attending Court. Mrs B presided at breakfast, and then resigned her position as house keeper to Mrs Palmer, and we commenced boarding with them. \*A night attended at Kendall's Hall & heard the Revd Mr Hodgman lecture on the signs of the times

Saturday Nov 4 Attending Court

Sunday Nov 5 At Mr McCandlish church in the morning. At night at Mr Marks to hear him lecture on the loss of the Arctic Pleasant weather

Monday Nov 6 1854 Attending Court

Fine day—\*Large Anti Nebraska meeting at Kendalls Hall at night, addressed by Mr Williams, Kayser<sup>1</sup> of St. Louis, Lawrence, Jonas & myself—About 11 O'clock at night they came to my house, and I made them a short speech from the steps.

Tuesday Nov 7 Most beautiful day, sunny & bland—Congressional & other elections take place today—and the result in the City has inspired us with hope of Mr Williams election to Congress

\*Wednesday Nov 8 1854 Beautiful day. At work in Court, which in the afternoon adjourned for the term Election news

<sup>1</sup>Alexander Kaiser of St. Louis. He spoke in German. *Quincy Whig*, November 6, 1854.

coming in but at night we are still in doubt as to results in the district. We are beaten in this county. Had hoped for better things

Thursday Nov 9 In the afternoon attended the funeral of Mrs Wm H. Benison as one of the pall bearers Warm day—Cloudy & raining a little in the afternoon. Election returns have been received so far as to make it certain Mr Williams is beaten

Friday Nov 10 1854 Quite a cold day. In the afternoon I went with Bushnell Sidell & Wheat out on the rail road about 5 miles being as far as the road is completed. Had a smooth & pleasant ride except that we were on a platform car & suffered some with cold—Ran out in about 20 minutes

\*Saturday Nov 11 Cold wintry day—

In the afternoon took Miss Kate Palmer riding—Made a call at Mr Collins & at night she & I called on Ed Savage & wife

\*Sunday Nov 12 1854 Cold day—Froze considerably last night & a very little snow fell this morning—just enough to see that it was falling Attended Congregational Church in the morning—being no preaching at ours. Mrs McDonald went with me Heard a Mr. Rice preach—At night went to Mr. Marks Church with Misses Palmer

Monday Nov 13 Cold day. At work in office.

\*Tuesday Nov 14 1854 Again mild & pleasant At work in office. Mrs B & self & some others took tea & spent the evening at Singletons

\*Wednesday Nov 15 At work in office—Fine day

Thursday Nov 16 Very pleasant day

At work in office

\*Friday Nov 17 Became colder in the night—Strong, cold wind blowing all day, with heavy cloud of dust. Miss Bettie Humphrey came this evening to stay with us a few days

Saturday Nov 18 1854 Pretty cold, cloudy & spitting snow a little

Sunday Nov 19 Quite pleasant. Attended Mr McCandlish's church in the morning & afternoon & Mr Marks at night



Monday Nov 20 At work in office—very fine day

Tuesday Nov 21 At work in office

Wednesday Nov 22 At work in office—Very pleasant day—

Thursday Nov 23 At work in office—Warm fine weather.

Friday Nov 24 1854 Rain last night & cooler this morning—Becoming colder all day—cloudy & looking like snow. Mrs Browning, Miss Bettie Humphrey & myself went to a party at John Tillsons at night—Dark, cold & gusty—Came home at midjnight

Saturday Nov 25 Cold, cloudy & snowing a little. At work in the office

Sunday Nov 26 Cold & wintry—ground just whitened with snow

7

Attended church in the morning, but not out again during the day

Monday Nov 27 1854 Bright, pretty day, but quite cool. At work in office. Received today intelligence of the death of my mother, who departed this life on the

I had long been expecting this sad event. It has at length come. She is called to her everlasting home—to be seen of us no more on this earth. May God give me grace to prepare to meet her in Heaven—\*for there can be no effectual preparation to bear such an affliction on earth. However long and certainly expected, still when it comes it brings with it the bitterness of grief

Tuesday Nov 28 1854 Very mild, beautiful day. Mrs Browning and I drove to the country, and dined at Mr Barrs & supped at Capt Sternes & and drove home after night by moonlight

Wednesday Nov 29 Pretty day—At work in office—

Thursday Nov 30 Thanksgiving day. Attended Church in the morning & heard Mr Rice of the Congregational Church preach an excellent sermon at Mr Marks church—Not out again during the day—weather fine

Friday Decr 1 1854 Bright mild day—At work in office. Attended Library lecture at the Court House at night by Prof: Sanborn of Keokuk—Poor thing

Saturday Decr 2 Mild, pleasant day. At work in office City lighted with gas at night for the first time<sup>1</sup> \*Attended Concert of the Bakers at Kendalls Hall.

Sunday Decr 3 Freezing cold. At church in the morning, but not out again

Monday Decr 4 1854 Cold winter day. At work in office

Tuesday Decr 5 At work in office—Cold

\*Wednesday Decr 6 At work in office—Steamer up last night, but could not get above this place, and will probably be the last of the season, as the ice is running heavily & the weather continues cold.

Thursday Decr 7 At work in office—cold

\*Friday Decr 8 At work in office—Mrs B & self took tea at Mr McCandlish Cold day

Saturday Decr 9 1854 At work in office—Warmer than yesterday, and at sundown raining a little—turned to snow & fell to the depth of about an inch

Sunday Decr 10 At church in morning—Cold but bright day—Snow on ground

Monday Decr 11 At work in office—

Tuesday Decr 12 At work in office—Mild & pleasant

Wednesday Decr 13 Quite warm, cloudy & threatning rain—At work in office

\*Thursday Decr 14 Bright, beautiful & warm. Attended lecture at night by Mr Root, on words—very good.

\*Friday Decr 15 1854 At work in office, preparing to go to Springfield to U. S. Court Rained a little this morning but cleared up before night. Warm. River free from ice, but very low. Some small boats running, but I am afraid to venture by the River

\*Saturday Decr 16 Warm, clouday day. At work in office preparing to leave for Springfield

<sup>1</sup>Gas works had been chartered by act of the General Assembly in 1853, largely through the efforts of John Tillson, and built with Quincy and St. Louis capital. *Quincy Whig*, December 11, 1854.

Sunday Decr 17 Turned cold in the night Cloudy & threatening snow Attended Church in morning Mr & Mrs Chapman dined with us

\*Monday Decr 18 1854 Last night at 7 O'clock left home in the stage for Springfield—Cold & stormy—some snow falling—Rode all night and breakfasted 4 miles West of Griggsville at New Maysville. Reached Naples about noon. Dined & took the cars for Springfield where we arrived after night—Found Mrs Enos had quit house-keeping, & had to stop at City Hotel—Johnsons—Mrs Pomeroy & Miss Casterline were with me—the one going to Alton the other to St. Louis De Kraff & Delany of Quincy were also along on their way East

Tuesday Decr 19 1854 Saw Mrs Pomeroy & Miss Casterline on the cars for Alton. About an inch of snow, & cold—Drummond arrived last night & Court opened to day. In the evening called to see Mrs Dodge—x x x

Wednesday Decr 20 Attending Court—Dined at Fondys with Drummond & Williams—In the afternoon called to see L—and at night called at Ridgelys where I met Mrs Smith & spent an hour or two

Came to day to board with Mrs Benson & Mrs OBriant

Thursday Decr 21 1854 Attending Court—Mrs Cox and Mrs Lott stayed at American last night—Saw them this morning—On their way home from the East & left at 9 A. M. in cars for Naples.

\*Spent the evening with L

Friday Decr 22 Attending Court. After adjournment made arrangements for starting home in the morning to spend Christmas. Took leave of them at my boarding house and established myself for the night at Blacks office which he has kindly had fitted up for me

\*Saturday Decr 23 1854 Rained last night & raining this morning. At 9 A. M. took the cars on my way home

Reached Naples at 1 P. M. & found the Quincy stage full—could not get a seat.

Houser, Blackford, myself & a Mr Hays hired a hack and

crossed the river before night and drove to Perry where we staid all night

Sunday, Decr 24 Left Perry as soon as it was light enough to drive, dined at New Town & reached home at 5 P. M. found all well. Day raw & foggy & roads some what muddy

Monday Decr 25 1854 A happy, joyous Christmast in this house-hold—Santa Claus distributed his gifts with a liberal hand. All were remembered, and little Emma was quite overwhelmed with joy at the profusion of her gifts—

\*Tuesday Decr 26 At home. At night attended lecture at the Court House delivered by President Sturdivant<sup>1</sup>—subject Alton Locke—Excellent lecture on the principles of political economy

\*Wednesday Decr 27 1854 At home. Pleasant weather. In afternoon Mrs B & self rode out to Cox's.

Thursday Decr 28 Weather fine. At home

Friday Decr 29 Beautiful day. Mr & Mrs Cox & family dined with us at our rooms.

At night I attended lecture at the Court House delivered by President Sturdivant—subject The influence of modern art on civilization—Good

Saturday Decr 30 Lovely day. Mild & balmy as Spring. Mrs B & self dined at John Woods with President Sturdivant and lady & others.

Southack & wife, & Asbury & wife took supper with us at our rooms.

Sunday Decr 31 Most lovely day. Attended Mr McCandlishs church in the morning, and the dedication of Mr Foots in the afternoon Sermon by President Sturdivant

<sup>1</sup>Julian M. Sturtevant, 1805-1886. Born in Connecticut; one of the founders of Illinois College, Jacksonville, 1829-1830; president, 1844-1876; always a strong antislavery man. His autobiography, published in 1896, is an important source for early Illinois history.

1855

January 1 1855—Monday This morning I begin a new year, with, I think, a sincere desire to be grateful to God for the blessings of the past, and faith to invoke his divine favour on the future.

My self and family are all in health with the means of comfort, and a reasonable degree of temporal happiness for all of which we are indebted to our Heavenly Father, and we ought, thereby, to be admonished of our obligations to, and dependence upon him, and to lift our hearts to him continually in obedience & love. May he give me grace better to discharge my duties hereafter than I have ever done heretofore

A more lovely day at this season of the year could not be. So warm & genial that fires are not necessary in the parlors. I passed the day in calling upon my friends and interchanging congratulations

At 8 O'clock at night took the stage for Springfield Mr & Mrs Sturdivant and Joshua Wood of the company. Three miles from Quincy a double tree broke & our lead horses ran away. We got out and walked & in about a mile found one of the horses down in the road—got him up and after walking about two miles further borrowed a swingle tree, hitched him on and managed to reach the first station at 1 O'clock at night where we changed, got a new team, and made the balance of the journey without accident. Warm cloudy night.

Tuesday, Jany 2 Breakfasted at New Maysville—reached Naples at noon—dined there, and at 2¼ P. M. took the cars for Springfield where I arrived just at night Warm & cloudy.

Wednesday Jañy 3 1855 In Springfield, occupying Blacks office & boarding at the American. Nothing done in Court to day and I called on a friend in afternoon x x



At night attended donation party at Mr Dodge's The House of Representatives organized yesterday by the election of Anti Nebraska officers, and the Senate did the same thing to day. Warm & cloudy with a little rain, but turned cold and froze at night

[Page torn out.<sup>1</sup>]

they would stand without the slightest change of position with arms extended horizontally, eyes closed, mouths wide open, muscles in repose without a twitch or a motion for an incredible length of time. Any one by experiment would soon be satisfied that it could not be done in a natural condition of the system

He would make them at will exhibit any class of emotions or sensations—joy or grief, mirth or sadness—tear off their boots in search of fleas & scratch furiously—fight mosquitoes. Shiver with cold—perspire with heat—sing, play the violin, weep, laugh, make speeches, preach sermons—dance, fish in a brook—in fine do any thing and everything—I was well acquainted with some of the persons engaged, & know there was no deception. He professes to wean persons from the use of tobacco and ardent spirits by inspiring them with uncontrollable disgust & C.

He also gave specimens of spirit rappings, table tipping, moving &c which I could find no solution of

\*Saturday Jany 6 1855 Rained all night, and still raining this morning—and continued to pour down through the day—the heaviest rain that has fallen since May 1853. Just after night turned cold and commenced snowing.

x x x

Sunday Jany 7 1855 Snow an inch or so deep, & ground frozen, but a bright, sunny, mild day & thawing Attended Mr Dodges church morning & evening

Monday Jany 8 Commenced trial of Brainard vs Stewart, Eject—for Deft Pretty day

\*Tuesday Jany 9 1854 Trying Brainard agt Stewart in U. S. Court Pretty day. At night attended lecture by Dr Rice on in-

<sup>1</sup>Possibly the missing page has been removed because of some reference to the senatorship. Browning's friends were apparently holding him in reserve for the place.

fidelity delivered in Mr Hales church. Most excellent—Went with Miss Balance from Mr Dodges x x x Pretty day.

Wednesday Jan'y 10 Concluded case Brainard vs Stewart—Judgt for Dft Commenced case of Strow vs Metcalfe, Ejectment Foggy drizzly day

\*Thursday, Jan'y 11 1855 Proceeded with trial of Strow vs Metcalfe. Beautiful day as ever shone, far more like Spring than winter. Wood & Asbury came over to day to promote my election as U S Senator, but I have no idea a whig can be elected. To accomplish such an end requires a union of the whigs & anti Nebraska democrats, & these last, in my opinion, will not unite upon any other basis than the selection of one of their own number as the candidate. The chances, at present, are against an election taking place at all.

Friday, Jan'y 12 1855 Concluded case of Strow vs Metcalfe in U. S. Court, and argued case of Smith & Smith vs Somers et als<sup>1</sup> in Supreme Court.

Another mild, pretty day, but at night clouded up, stormed a little & turned cold—x x x

Saturday Jan'y 13 1855 Bright, sunny morning but cold—ground hard frozen. Disposed of several cases in Supreme Court.

\*Wood, Asbury, Bushnell, Sherman & Tillson spent the evening at my room

Sunday, Jan'y 14 1855 About as cold as it has been this winter, but wind in South. Attended Mr Dodges church morning & evening. Saw Dwight Brown, who has just arrived from Lexington

Monday Jan'y 15 Weather has moderated & the day is pleasant. Commenced trial of Papin vs Cooper—French claim at Peoria

Asbury left for home to day.

x x x

<sup>1</sup>The People, to the use of William Smith et al., *vs.* John D. Summers et al., 16 *Illinois*, 173. An action on an administrator's bond.

Tuesday, Jan'y 16 Warm, pleasant day. Concluded the trial commenced yesterday At night went to hear Yeatman of St Louis deliver an address on the Maine law

Wednesday Jan'y 17 1855 Day lovely as Spring. Gave way to the Alton lawyers in Court to day, and attended the discussion of the Maine law in the house. Went again at night with Mrs Brown. Bushnell left to day x x x

Thursday Jan'y 18 Alton lawyers still occupying the Court—Attending sitting of Legislature part of the day

Friday Jan'y 19 Commenced trial of Chy case Thaxter vs Hatch<sup>1</sup> Very warm day. Fire hardly necessary. Took walk after Court x x x

Saturday Jan'y 20 1855 Concluded the case of Thaxter vs Hatch. Day raw & cloudy. At night the wind rose—got round to the N. E. and brought on snow which commenced falling about 10 O'clock at night, and drifted before a heavy gale all night. In the evening went to call on David Brown<sup>2</sup> & family, & afterwards played a game of chess with Mrs. Sophy Smith x x x x x

Sunday Jan'y 21. About 3 O'clock this morning I was awakened by the piteous moans of some one in the street under my window, whose cries for help would occasionally rise above the blast. I got out of bed, lit my candle & went down. Found an Irishman drunk. At what time of night he had been kicked out of the *hell* where he was made drunk I dont know, nor did he. He said he had been wandering in the storm all night trying to find his house & was lost, and nearly frozen. It was a pitiless storm for any one to be out in. When I went down to him he was sound asleep, and might possibly have died before day. Said he had a family in town. Of them I can only think as a wan & heartbroken wife, & ragged children shivering with cold, and torn with the remorseless cravings of hunger. How many, alas! how many such instances are there around us! How is the

<sup>1</sup>Thaxter vs. Hatch et al., *Federal Cases*, number 13,866. A case before the United States Circuit Court of Illinois in which the eleventh section of the Judiciary Act of 1789 was construed.

<sup>2</sup>Son of William B. Brown, of Kentucky, who had come to Springfield in 1839; married the sister of J. Taylor Smith.

land filled with misery, & wretchedness and crime by the monstrous vice of drunkenness—and yet there are those among us who think no laws should be passed to dry up the fountains of the evil.<sup>1</sup>

Attended Mr Dodges church in the morning. In consequence of the storm there were but 15 or 20 persons present, and is to be no service at night. Had an excellent sermon. The storm has raged with unabated fury all day, and now after night is still howling fiercely around. Last night & this morning the wind was N E—is now N. W. I have never witnessed such a snowstorm before. In many places the drifts are four & five feet deep, and I suppose even more, as I can only look into the street. Whether it is still falling I cant tell—The air is filled with it, but it may be only drifts lifted by the wind

On Friday the legislature adjourned over to Wednesday next & most of the members went home. I doubt whether all succeed in getting back by the appointed time

\*Monday Jan'y 22 1855 Cold bright day. The storm is over, but what the average depth of snow I dont know. In many places the drifts are as much as five feet, and I suppose an average would be about 18 inches. The Rail roads are all obstructed. No cars from any direction.

x x x

Tuesday Jan'y 23 Pretty cold & cloudy. Tried case of Peters vs Malone & commenced trial of Morris et als vs Sadler No cars yet arrived from any direction

Called at Mr Dodges & spent an hour in the evening.

\*Wednesday Jan'y 24 1855 Good winter weather. Cars got in this afternoon from Alton, Naples & Decatur—None from Chicago

Took breakfast at Bunns<sup>2</sup> Tried case of Rowley vs M Spirit & Chandler, and same vs Hogan—

No mails from Quincy since last week

x x x x x

<sup>1</sup>The question of temperance legislation was prominent in the session of the General Assembly of 1855, the Whigs generally favoring and the Democrats opposing it.

<sup>2</sup>Either Jacob or John W. Bunn, Springfield grocers and bankers.

Thursday Jany 25 Mild morning, but about noon became cloudy & colder & commenced snowing a little. Concluded the case of Morris vs Sadler. Taken under advisement I am now ready to go home & expect to start in the morning

Friday Jany 26 1855 Cold clear day. Said good bye to Springfield this morning, and at 11 A. M. went to the depot to take the cars to Naples on my way home. The train due from Naples last night had not yet arrived. The wind yesterday drifted the snow onto the track and again obstructed it. Some of the passengers came in on foot & reported the train ten miles out in a snow drift. It had remained out all night, and hands had to be sent to shovel the snow off to enable it to get in—It did not arrive till the afternoon. I remained at the depot till 1 O'clock & returned to the American to dinner. After dinner went again to the depot and remained till 5 P. M. To days train from Naples not yet arrived (it came about sun down) and I had my baggage taken back to my room, and gave up all hope of getting off before tomorrow. No trains arrived from any other direction today. A sufficient number of the members of the legislature have not yet returned to constitute a quorum.

Mr Johnstone of Peoria called at the American to see me. He left home last Saturday for St Louis and is only this far waiting for the cars to Alton. x x x x x x x

\*Saturday Jany 27 1855 At 3½ P. M. I left Springfield in the cars for Naples. Had been waiting & watching all day, for a chance to get away, & consequently saw none of my friends before starting. Got down to Morgan City before night & quit the cars there to take the Meredosia route home. A four horse coach was waiting for us, in which we reached Meredosia about 9 o'clock & staid all night very comfortably at Geo Finch's tavern. Once before getting there we stuck in a snowdrift and had to dig out

A very cold day and full load of passengers.

Sunday Jany 28 1855 About three inches snow fell last night, and snowing a little, and blowing very cold all day. Between 10 & 11 O'clock we got across the river by crossing the coach & horses separately on the ice, and came on to Mt. Sterling



to dinner. After dinner continued our journey in a four horse sleigh to Clayton, where we arrived after night & and staid all night at Hamiltons tavern.

Weather very cold—Six passengers, & some poorly provided for traveling. I lent Mr Simpson a young lawyer, on his way to Keokuk an overcoat, and a woman my gown

Monday Jany 29 1855 After breakfast left Clayton in the four horse sleigh—Stuck in snow drift before reaching camp point, but dug out, and reached Columbus where we dined, and then came on home—Arrived just after night—Has been a very cold day. I had been suffering with dysentery ever since I left Springfield & was quite indisposed when I got home—So much so that it was necessary to take medicine. Found all well at home, and am thankful & rejoiced to find myself again at my own hearth stone, and in the midst of my own family

Tuesday Jany 30 1855 At home—Kept my room all day under the operation of medicine which I took last night.

\*Wednesday Jany 31 The weather has moderated some, but is still quite cold—full up to our usual winter weather. Worked some in the office today, but not much, not having fully recovered

This day has been fixed by the Legislature for the election of U. S. Senator, but it is doubtful whether a quorum will be present, and if there should no certainty that an election will take place

Thursday Feby 1 1855 Worked some in office—Cold day—No mails East of Springfield since the storm

Saw today De Beufs two pictures of Adam & Eve—the temptation and expulsion.

I suppose I am not sufficiently skilled in the fine arts to criticise them, and can only say that to my eye they are far superior to any paintings I have ever seen both in conception and execution. Eve in the first picture fills the ideal of the beautiful & the tempting, and Adam is a most noble specimen of the physical & intellectual man.

I contemplate the temptation with far more satisfaction than the expulsion, yet the latter is, in some respects, the superior picture. There is in it a wonderful combination of light & shade,

and the perspective is so perfect as to delude you into the belief that you are looking at statues. I have seen them but once, but will repeat my visit.

At night attended at the Court House and heard lecture from professor Moore. Subject—"influence of Science on States & individuals"

Pretty good lecture, though not a fine composition Too much *effort* to be *fine*

\*Friday February 2 1855 Cold winter day. At work in office part of day

In the afternoon again visited Du Bufes pictures. The head of Adam does not satisfy the desires & expectations of the mind. The face is too smooth & regular—nose too Grecian—hair combed & brushed & whiskers trimmed with too much precision, giving more the impression of a Spaniard or Italian vain of his descent & his person, than the great original progenitor of the human family. If the features were less regular they would please more. We look in vain for something bold, striking & decided, and are not satisfied with the exquisite polish of the nose, mouth & brow, and the elaborate combing & brushing & perfuming of hair & whiskers

At night attended at Miss Gunnings school room—End of quarter—Girls amusing themselves reading exercises, tableau's, Calysthenics &c.

Tableau's of paintings and statuary very perfect & very beautiful.

Went with Miss Kate & Miss Mary Palmer—remained till 10 O'clock—Spent pleasant evening.

\*Saturday Feby 3 Cold clear day. At work in office some, and not some At night went with Mrs B to the painting

\*Sunday Feby 4 1855 Attended church in morning, and at night went to Mr Marks church & heard Mr Foote preach against dancing. He did not succeed in proving to my satisfaction that it was the most heinous sin in the world.

It is in itself innocent, but is capable of abuse like everything else, and is, no doubt, often carried to excess

Monday Feby 5 At work in office. A little snow fell this morning. Weather moderated some but still cold & no mails yet arrived from East. Railroads to Chicago all obstructed

\*Tuesday Feby 6 1855 At work in office. At night Mrs B & self went to the wedding of Jack Murphy & Miss Thomas at Savages.

Day has been warm and snow thawing rapidly.

Wednesday Feby 7 At work in office. Wrote to Judge Simpson. Disagreeable day—Colder than yesterday though still thawing

Thursday Feby 8 At work in office. At night attended lecture at Court House by Mr Evans "Philosophy of the age" Very incomprehensible

Friday Feby 9 1855 At work in office. Tolerably cold day. Mrs B & self at Cox's to supper,

Saturday Feby 10 Some snow this morning but the afternoon fair & warm At work in office. Virgil Ralston got home from California this morning

Sunday Feby 11 Attended church in morning—At night went to Mr Foots church & heard Mr Marks on dancing

Monday Feby 12 At work in office—Warm & gloomy & gentle rain falling

\*Tuesday, Feby 13 1855 At work in office. Snowing this morning & cold throughout the day.

Wednesday Feby 14 At work in office. Snowing this morning, tho but little fell—Cold. Moderated & sun broke out towards night

\*Thursday Feby 15 Bright, pretty day—thawing some, but cold. At work in office. Cox & wife & Sidell took supper with us at our rooms, and I then went with Mrs Cox to party at Godfreys

\*Friday Feby 16 Beautiful day. At work in office. Rev R V Dodge of Springfield arrived today & stopped with us

\*Saturday Feby 17 1855 Cold, cloudy disagreeable morning, but afternoon sunny & pleasant. In the morning attended funeral

of Mr Aaron Denman, as one of the pall bearers. At work in office in the afternoon At night attended church and heard excellent sermon from Rev R. V. Dodge

Sunday Feby 18 Beautiful day—Warm & sunny Attended  
 9 church morning & night & heard fine sermons from Mr Dodge

Monday Feby 19 Fine day—In forenoon riding about Town with Mr Dodge—In afternoon at work in office. At night went to Church & heard Mr Dodge preach.

\*Tuesday Feby 20 1855 Beautiful day. At work in office. At night went to Church & heard Mr Dodge preach.

Wednesday Feby 21. Very charming day. Running about all day trying to borrow money for Mr Morrison to keep up the Daily Republican. Got \$225 \*At night attended church—short addresses by Mr Dodge, Mr Rice & Mr McCandlish

Thursday Feby 22 At work in office all day. Mr Dodge left in the stage this morning before day. Cold, cloudy & a little snow falling, till the afternoon when it came on very heavily, and by night several inches deep

\*Friday, Feby 23 1855 Cold day—Snow several inches deep and too cold to thaw At work in office

Saturday Feby 24 Clear, bright day, but cold. At work in office.

Mrs Sterne & Miss Ward to tea with us

Sunday Feby 25 At church in the morning but not out again. Has been, I think, the coldest day of the season

Monday Feby 26 At work in the office Very cold—Colder than yesterday, and increasing in intensity all day

Tuesday Feby 27, 1855 At work in office.

Cold, clear day—Mrs B and self took supper at Pomeroy's with some other friends—and quite a little party came in after tea

Wednesday Feby 28 At work in office Still cold—Wind in North, but milder than for several days—River continues blocked up with no present prospect of opening

\*Thursday March 1 1855 At work in office. Beautiful & delightful day. The wind has got round to the South. The snow is melting away and all gives promise of pleasant weather & approaching spring

Friday March 2 Hard at work in the office—Mild, cloudy day—wind from the South & thawing

Mr & Mrs Rice, Mrs Holmes & others passed the evening with us

Saturday March 3 At work in office, and busy preparing to go to Hancock Court on Monday Pleasant day—thawing

\*Sunday March 4 1855 Sometime in the night I awoke with pain in my stomach—threatened with one of my accustomed attacks. Took Calomel & opium and got relief—Did not quit my bed till 3½ O'clock P. M.

Pleasant day

Monday March 5 At 8 O'clock this morning started for Carthage to attend Court. In one of Singletons carriages with him & Gilpin—River not being open have to travel by land. Roads heavy—Dined at Mendon and stayed all night at Chili.

Sherman & John Tillson with us in another carriage

Pleasant day

\*Tuesday March 6 1855 Cloudy, chilly morning Left Chili  
4  
& traveled across the prairie to Carthage where we arrived before dinner. Put up at Artois Hamiltons—In the afternoon at work in Court

Wednesday March 7. Warm, pleasant day. At work in Court

Thursday March 8 Bright, pretty day and pleasant. At work in Court

Friday March 9 Weather changed in the night & frost this morning, but bright pleasant day

Attending Court

Saturday March 10 1855 Cloudy, threatening rain and cool, but not cold—

Attending Court



\*Sunday March 11 Very dark disagreeable day, and raining at intervals Most of the lawyers have gone to Warsaw & elsewhere to remain till Monday. I spent the Sabbath in Carthage—Attended Presbyterian Church & heard Mr Swan preach. About night became quite cold.

Monday March 12 Cloudy, cold, disagreeable morning, with occasional gusts of rain from N. E.

At work in Court

Carthage

Tuesday March 13 1855 Cloudy, disagreeable day—Cool with occasional rain—At night some thunder & lightning ~~Attending Court~~ last night and a very little snow on the ground this morning—Tempestuous through the day with a little snow & rain occasionally

Attending Court

\*Wednesday March 14 Some ice this morning—Raw, chilly day—About 5 P. M. a snow storm came on, blowing & drifting from the North, and now at 9 at night is still snowing heavily with a strong wind—but not very cold—ground soft

Have been laboriously engaged in Court all day

\*Carthage

Thursday March 15 1855 Three or four inches snow on the ground this morning. Soft and thawing a little through the day, but not much, and now, at night, freezing. Hard at work in Court all day

\*Friday, March 16 Ground frozen pretty hard this morning—Softened and thawed a little in the forenoon, but most of the afternoon was snowing quite fast & wind blowing from N. E.

Have been busy in Court all day—Late in the afternoon adjourned till Court in Course, and expect to start home in the morning

\*Carthage

\*Saturday March 17. 1855 About 9 O'clock this morning left Carthage in Baldwins 4 horse hack for Warsaw on my way home, in company with Judge Skinner, Harry Stephens, Sibley &c. Snow 5 or 6 inches deep, and blowing a gale from N. W. and freezing, For the first 5 miles suffered very much with cold, but stopped at Wells 5 miles out from Carthage, & warmed thoroughly, borrowed a Buffaloe robe & continued our journey in

Warsaw

comparative comfort—the weather having moderated some in the mean time—and arrived at Carthage about 3 P. M. Stopped at Wilson's Tavern, and after getting something to eat, by request, called to see Miss Amelia Andrews, who was delivered of a Child about 10 days since, the fruit of a marriage contract between her & Johnson Smith who deceived her. She wanted me to bring suit against him for breach of marriage promise, but was too unwell to tell me her story fully, and the matter was postponed. Went from there to Roosevelts where I took supper—then returned to Wilson's tavern, and spent the evening with Judge Skinner, Wm I. Turner, Jim Roosevelt, Windall, Sibley, Orendorf &c.

Warsaw &  
Quincy

Sunday March 18 1855 Last night was very clear & remarkably cold for the season of the year. The ground, this morning, as flint, and ice quite thick—Snow 5 or 6 inches deep—At 7 O'clock in the morning Packet Sam Gaty came along on her way down, and got aboard of her for home, and am now running down the River, this morning bright & beautiful & much warmer than yesterday.

\*Reached home at 11 O'clock A. M. and did not go out again during the day. Found all well—The day has been very fair & sunny & thawing some, but not rapidly

Quincy

Monday March 19 1855 Ground very hard frozen this morning. Snow crisp under the feet & cold wind blowing from N. W. Bright day, thawing a very little in the sun, but freezing in the shade—Court commenced today.

\*Tuesday March 20 Bright, but very keen, cold morning. The streets as hard as rocks—Snow crisp and creaking under the feet—wind in the North & piercing Cold. During the day thawed very little in the sun, whilst freezing in the shade.

Attending Court

\*Quincy

Wednesday, March 21 1855 Still cold, very cold & very hard frozen—tho the wind is this morning in the S. E. Was a little warmer through the day than yesterday, but before night wind again in the North & quite cold

Attending Court

Thursday March 22 Very pretty, sunny day—milder than it has been but still cold

Attending Court

Friday March 23 1855 Warm fine day—Wind in the South & thawing rapidly all day—

\*Saturday March 24 Turned cold last night—ground hard frozen & wind from North this morning—Attending Court

Quincy

Sunday March 25 1855 Quite pleasant day—warmer than yesterday. Attended Church in morning—Not out again

Monday March 26 Last night tempestuous—High wind prevailing—This morning quite cold—ground hard frozen & wind in N. W. blowing strong & cold all day

Attending Court

\*Tuesday March 27 Very cold & hard frozen—Sun shining but hardly any warmth in it. Attending Court.

Wednesday March 28 Cold, clear & sunny.

\*Attending Court, though quite indisposed

\*Quincy

Thursday, March 29 1855 Pretty day & much milder than it has been—Some indication of returning Spring

Attending Court

Friday March 30 Much warmer than it has been—Cloudy & threatening rain

\*Attending Court

Saturday March 31. Mild, pleasant day, quite like Spring—

Attended Court in the forenoon but did no business there after dinner

Miss Amanda Barr came in today to make us a visit

\*Quincy

Sunday April 1, 1855 Very beautiful day & bright but cool—Colder than yesterday Attended Church in morning—Hiram Morris & wife came home with us to dinner. At night went with Miss Amanda Barr to Protestant Methodist Church in Broadway. Mr McCandlish preached

Monday Apl. 2 Cold & hard frozen this morning—Cloudy chilly day—Attending Court. At night went with Mrs Brown-

ing, Miss Amanda Barr, et als, to concert at Kendalls Hall—Master Nick Goodalls performances on the violin were very fine, & even wonderful for one so young

Quincy

Tuesday Apl. 3 1855 Pretty day & milder than it has been.

Monday

Township elections take place today. The jury was permitted to disperse on that account, and but little has been done in Court

In afternoon Jonas & myself took a long walk—visited most of the shops under the hill—foundries, machine shops, stone cutting & sawing &c, and was surprised at the amount of mechanical labour there is going on in the Town. But it is destined to have a still greater extension, and this place may yet become distinguished for its manufactories At night went with Miss Dora Howell & Misses Palmer to concert at Kendalls Hall

Quincy

Wednesday Apl 4 1855 Quite like Spring—Commenced this morning the trial of libel suit, Morrison vs Avise et als<sup>1</sup> & got jury empannelled before dinner. Nearly all loco focos—Lane the Sheriff summoned the pannel, and, no doubt, selected them with a view to the case—

Thursday Apl. 5 Pleasant Spring day—Progressing with case of Morrison vs Avise et als

Friday Apl. 6 Bright day but quite cool—Progressing with case of Morrison vs Avise et als At night attended concert (by Goodall) with Mrs B & Miss Palmers

\*Quincy

Saturday Apl. 7 1855 Chilly morning & cloudy but wind in South—Some warmer as the day advances & now at 2 p. m. sprinkling rain

Closed evidence in the case of Morrison et als at noon & adjourned Court till Monday when the argument will commence

Sunday Apl. 8 No preaching at Westminster Church to day, Mr McCandlish being absent at Presbytery—I therefore attended at Mr Marks, and heard his valedictory, he being about to leave. Was not out in afternoon

<sup>1</sup>Morrison vs. Avise. Apparently this was a libel suit brought against the *Quincy Herald* in the name of Morrison, editor of the *Daily Republican and Patriot*, for a libel against him, Browning and Jonas. *Quincy Whig*, March 8, 1855.

Quincy

Monday Apl. 9 1855 Quite a Spring like day. Warm &

~~Sunday~~

cloudy. Proceeding with the case of Morrison vs Avise et als—  
The whole day has been occupied by Jonas & Morris in addressing the jury—

Tuesday Apl. 10 Bright, clear morning but quite cold. Wind in the North & very keen Progressing with the trial of Morrison vs Avise et als. Singleton occupied the forenoon & Richardson most of the afternoon on behalf of Defts—

I commenced concluding argument for Plaintiff & spoke about an hour when Court adjourned.

Quincy

Wednesday, Apl. 11 1855 Something warmer this morning—wind again in the South Addressed the jury in case of Morrison vs Avise et als for something over four hours—Concluded before dinner & case given to jury

Thursday Apl. 12. Warm, dusty day—Attending Court—Morrison vs Avise et als jury brought in verdict of one cent damages. It is proof conclusive that they are corrupt and it ought to disgrace them all. I knew the jury was packed by the Sheriff for the express purpose and the best I had hoped for was a hung jury—Have entered a motion for new trial

Quincy

\*Friday Apl. 13 1855 The warmest day of the season—almost warm enough for June. Thunder & lightning in the evening & almost rain enough to lay the dust. Attending Court, Set out 7 of my new rose bushes this evening.

Saturday Apl. 14 Much cooler this morning. Apricot trees show a few blossoms

\*On Thursday last Delano came & commenced reading law in office Argued motion for new trial in case of Morrison vs Avise et als which was overruled & bill of exceptions taken. If there is any virtue, or sense of shame left in the Courts this case will be reversed in Supreme Court

Quincy

Sunday Apl 15 1855 Lovely day—Attended Church in morning & not out again

\*Pleasant rain last night

Monday Apl. 16 Court adjourned this morning till Court in Course



Very fine warm day Municipal election to day—\*Whigs ran no ticket—Independents did & badly beat by the Dutch & Irish—Entire loco foco ticket elected—

At night I went to Kendalls Hall with Miss Dewey to see Boneaus Panorama of Australia, China &c Parts of it very pretty picture worth seeing

\*Quincy

Tuesday Apl. 17 1855 Remarkably warm day—Warm enough for July. Too warm to wear clothes. At work in garden & office

Wednesday April 18 Another excessively warm day—At  
March  
work in office

Thursday April 19 At work in office—Very warm—From  
March  
11 to 12 A M had tremendous rain & several good showers in afternoon. Much injury done to the streets by the torrents of the morning

Friday April 20 Beautiful morning—Much cooler than  
March  
yesterday. At work in office

\*Quincy

Saturday April 21 1855 Fine warm day. At 10 A. M. took  
March  
the R R cars on my way to Rushville to attend Court. Ran out to Camp point—Got there a little before 12, & then took the stage—dined at Clayton, and arrived at Rushville about dark. Stopped at Ames tavern who is keeping in Campbells house

Sunday April 22 Bright, pretty day. Attended Presbyterian  
March  
church in the morning, and heard an old man by name of Brown preach a very good sermon

Monday April 23 Very pretty day—Attending court  
March

Rushville

Tuesday April 24 1855 Very warm—Attending Court—  
March

Wednesday April 25 Cloudy, warm morning. Thundering  
March  
& lightning and raining some  
Attending Court

Thursday April 26 Much colder this morning Fire necessary to comfort. ~~March~~ Attending Court.

In company with some others spent the evening at Genl. Hinmans<sup>1</sup>

Friday April 27 Beautiful day, but cold enough for fire ~~March~~

Attending court, Took tea at Judge Walkers

Saturday April 28 1855 Pleasant day—Attending Court

~~March~~

Sunday April 29 Sprinkled rain a little this morning—~~March~~

War'm day Got Robt Greer to bring me to Frederic, where at 11½ A. M. I got on board the steamer Shenandoah for St. Louis. Found Mrs Billon & Miss Virginia on board, who had been to Peoria & were on their way home

Monday April 30 Reached St Louis at 10½ A. M. Took my baggage on board Die Vernon for Quincy this afternoon. Called at Barrets office—Did some shopping, bot Mrs Browning watch &c & started home from 4 to 5 P. M. excessively hot day

Tuesday May 1 1855 Reached home at 3 P. M. Fine rain last night, and pleasant to day. Singleton & his sister Mrs Buford came up on same boat with me. Total eclipse of moon at night, but some what cloudy & did not have a very good view—

Wednesday May 2 Heavy rains have fallen in the last few days & quite cool to day—at work in office

Thursday May 3. 1855 At work in office Cloudy—misting rain occasionally & cool enough to make fire comfortable

Friday, May 4 1855 Bright, beautiful day, but a little cool. At work in office

Saturday May 5 Delightful day—At work in office

\*Sunday May 6 Very fine day—At Church in the morning—Not out in afternoon—At night went with Miss Kate Palmer to Mr Marks church & heard a methodist preacher—

<sup>1</sup>Probably Gideon Hinman, 1812-1875. Born in New York; bought land in Brown County, 1846; Whig and Republican; served three years in the 3d Illinois Cavalry in the Civil War.

\*Rush-  
ville—  
St. Louis,

\*Quincy

\*Quincy

Monday May 7 Windy, cool day—At work in office—Attended musical concert at night at Kendalls Hall with Mrs B.

*Quincy* Tuesday May 8 1855 Bright day, but quite cool—Frost this morning—Not much in Town but in the Country—beans potatoes, tomatoes &c were cut down. At work in office

Wednesday May 9. Frost again this morning. Pretty day, but cool At work in office

Thursday May 10 Pretty day & something warmer, but still cold enough to make a little fire necessary At work in office

Friday May 11 Very pretty day. Calm bright & something warmer At work in office †Went with Miss Kate & Mary to fair†

\**Quincy* Saturday, May 12 1855 Fine, warm day, but very dry and dusty—Rain greatly needed—

At work in office

\*Sunday May 13 Attended church in morning—not out again A gentle & refreshing rain to day

Monday May 14 Fine, warm day—At work in office

\*Tuesday May 15 Very warm. At work in office

Wednesday May 16 Thunder & lightning & very fine rain last night—Pleasant day—At work in office

*Quincy* Thursday, May 17 1855 Rained heavily most of last night & raining this morning—Dark, cloudy, chilly day At night attended the wedding of Miss Ellen Collins in company with Mrs Browning & Mr Palmers family. She married a Mr Stewart of Alton—Large & very pleasant party‡

Friday May 18. Bright, pretty day. At work in office. Rain at night

Saturday May 19 Fine day—At work in office

Sunday May 20 Attended Church in the morning. Mr McConnell preached. Mr McCandlish being absent

*Quincy* Monday, May 21 1855 Fine day—very warm At work in office

Tuesday May 22 Excessively warm day. Heavy thunder storm at night—high wind & a great deal of rain—continued to fall most of the night

Wednesday May 23 Cloudy & still very warm in the morning, but cleared off & had a beautiful day

At work in office

Thursday May 24 Cloudy, warm & occasionally drizzling rain, but cleared off before night & very pretty evening—Quite a large party at our house in the evening

Quincy Friday, May 25 1855 Raining through the day, and continued all night a succession of thunder storms. At work in office.

Saturday May 26. Has rained most of the day—Sometimes very heavily

At work in office

Sunday May 27 Attended church in morning. At night went to Mr Marks church & heard Mr King, a gentleman they expect to employ<sup>1</sup>

Monday May 28 At work in office Budded a Madam Laffey & Malmaison rose to day

Quincy Tuesday, May 29 1855 Warm day. At work in office Commenced raining just after dark & rained all night

Wednesday May 30 Warm & cloudy with occasional showers \*& rained at night At work in office

Thursday May 31 Very warm day. Cloudy & occasionally raining. At night Mrs B & self attended party at Seamans. Asbury left our office to day having formed a partnership with Jonas—I am alone in the office—Bushnell still being engaged with the rail road & some new arrangement will have to be made

Quincy Friday June 1 1855 Cloudy, drizzling rain & very cold for the season. Fire necessary to comfort all day. At work in office.

Saturday June 2 Bright, sunny day, but very cool—Fire necessary to comfort

<sup>1</sup>George Ives King served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, 1855-1867.

Sunday June 3. Very pretty day but cool—Attended Church in morning—not out in afternoon

Monday June 4 Cloudy, cold day. At work in office. Election for judges and for & against prohibitory, liquor law

\*Quincy  
& Carthage

Tuesday June 5 1855 About noon, in company with Williams, Wheat & Warren went on board Die Vernon on my way to Hancock Court. Reached Warsaw at 5 P. M. & stopped at Wilsons tavern. At night went to hear a female spiritualist hold forth. Her talk was intolerable twaddle, incomprensible nonsense. Soon got tired & left.

Wednesday June 6 Williams, Warren, Wheat & myself came in Herricks hack to Carthage, where we arrived about 10½ A. M.

So cold had to wear our over coats. Cloudy, & commenced raining about noon. I stop at Artois Hamiltons—have fire in my room

\*Carthage

Thursday June 7 1855 Attending Court—Sunny but very cool day

Friday June 8 Attending Court—Still very cool

\*Saturday. June 9. Fine, warm, summer day—the first one we have had this month. Have adjourned Court this forenoon & expect to start for Warsaw immediately after dinner on our way home. \*Reached Warsaw at 5 P. M. Took tea at Wagleys and about sun down got on board the Keokuk on my way home

Quincy

Sunday June 10 1855 Reached home this morning between 8 & 9 Oclock—Attended Church in forenoon, and again at night went with Miss Kate & Mary to first Congregational Church Pleasant day, but rather cool

\*Monday 11. Good summer day At work in office

Tuesday 12. Pleasant day, but very cool for the season. At work in office. Intended going to a ball at Kendall's hall at night but Dr Prince & Ed: Prince called to spend the evening & I did not go

Quincy

Wednesday June 13, 1855 Pleasant day. At work in office. This afternoon Mrs B & Miss Mary Palmer, taking Emma with



them, took passage on the Steamer Keokuk, on their way to Warsaw on a visit.

As we went on the boat we met Robt Simpson coming off on a visit to us. He turned and went on to Warsaw with Mrs B & Miss P.

\*Thursday June 14 Very cold morning. At work in office. I R Barret Esqr came up to day on a visit and stopped with me

\*Friday June 15 Fine, warm summer day—At work in office

Quincy Saturday, June 16 1855 Mrs Browning, Emma and Robt Simpson got home from Warsaw this morning—Came down on

\*Die Vernon in the night—Very warm day—Strong breeze & dust very bad

Sunday June 17. Mr Barret & Robt Simpson left this morning. <sup>17</sup> Attended Church in the morning—Not out again—Very warm day

Monday June 18 Fine rain came on this morning about day. Miss Mary Roosevelt arrived whilst at breakfast

Court commenced to day—Very warm

\*Quincy Tuesday June 19. 1855 Very warm day. Attending court. Commenced trial of Charles M Payne for killing Hubbard

Wednesday June 20 Fine rain about 2 Oclock this morning—warm day—Proceeding with trial commenced yesterday

Thursday June 21 Concluded trial of Payne—Warm fine day—Rain in the morning, but fair afterwards

Friday June 22 Verdict in Paynes case one year in Penitentiary

Saturday June 23 Attending Court

\*Quincy \*Sunday June 24 1855 Very cool day. Attended Church in the morning—not out again

Monday June 25 Beautiful day. Attending court, & working in office Mr & Mrs Roosevelt came down to day, and at night all attended amature musical concert at Kendalls Hall

Tuesday June 26 Some rain this morning. Mr & Mrs <sup>7</sup> Roosevelt & Miss Mary left this morning—Warm day Attend-

ing Court Miss Church, Miss Tillson & Mr Sidell took tea with us at our rooms

Quincy

Wednesday June 27, 1855. Court adjourned to day and I am now busy preparing for the U S Court at Chicago which commences on Monday next—very warm

Thursday June 28 At work in office—Very warm day—but delightful—Mrs Jno: T Morton died this afternoon

Friday June 29 At work in office. Bright warm & beautiful

Attended Mrs Mortons funeral in afternoon, & at night went with Mrs B, Mrs P & Miss Mary to Cent Cong Church to hear Mr Burnham preach

Quincy

Saturday June 30 1855 Very delightful day—Cooler than it has been for some days past. Busy making arrangement to start to Chicago on Monday

Attended drill of the cadets of Roots school this morning at Kendalls Hall

Quincy

Sunday July 1 1855<sup>1</sup> Attended church in the morning & again in afternoon. Very fine day but a little too cool for me

Monday July 2 This morning took passage on Steamer Westerner for St Louis on my way to Chicago Mrs B & Emma came with me to the boat.

Miss Guning goes down on same boat on her way to Ky. Mrs Powell of St. Louis along—Katy, our girl & her boy, who have been up on a visit go down also

Fine warm day and continued to run all night

<sup>1</sup>The diary from July 1, 1855 to July 31, 1856 is in a book bound in black leather, closing with a flap and with an interior pocket. There are 196 unnumbered pages,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  by  $6\frac{1}{8}$  inches, with plain ruling.

On the flap in pencil is written:

OW

1 W

Augt 9. Longworth

On the fly leaf is written in pencil:

Still I feel thou are near & where 'ere I may be  
The spirit of love keeps a watch over me.

In ink on the inside back cover is written:

Emma Lord was born April 8 1848 and came to live with us June 1853

St. Louis  
& Spring-  
field

Tuesday July 3 1855 Reached St Louis at 5 this morning—went immediately aboard Alton Packet Reindeer—arrived at Alton & took 9 O'clock cars for Springfield Reached Springfield at 12½ O'clock—stopped at American—In afternoon called on Mrs Edwards—took tea at Jack Smiths, and after tea called at Mr Dodges

Intended to take the night train for Chicago, but found on arriving at Springfield my trunk of papers was missing & had to remain till I could recover it Telegraphed to Alton & it came that night from somewhere

Spring-  
field &  
Chicago

Wednesday July 4 1855 At 12½ O'clock to day took the cars for Chicago on the Mississippi & Chicago R.R.<sup>1</sup> Quite warm—the road very rough & dust extremely annoying—but the country was one I had not before seen, and was interested in looking out upon it. Most of it is very sparsely populated—Many vast uncultivated praries, but also many new settlements making & thriving villages springing up—For many miles before reaching Chicago the Country is very flat, and apparently of a wet, cold thin soil Altho the day had been warm we found it so chilly towards sun down as to make it necessary to close all the windows of the cars & draw on my overcoat Even then I was uncomfortably cold

Chicago

Reached Chicago between 11 & 12 at night & stopped at the Briggs House

Thursday July 5 Attending Court & disposing of cases. Judge McLean is here & proposes to remain only this week & next and I am anxious to try most of my cases when he is present.

Chicago

Dick Hanson called to see me this evening & remained an hour or two He has been here since last fall, but is discouraged & intends to leave soon

Friday July. 6 Attending Court & trying cases. Weather dry & pleasant but cool of evenings After tea took a long walk with McClure & Bryant—Went on to the N side of the river & thence to the lake shore & picked up pebbles—About sun down when there—The wind was fresh from the lake & bleak as No-

<sup>1</sup>The present Chicago and Alton Railroad.

vember. So chilly that I found it necessary to button my cloth coat close about me. Eliphalet Blatchford<sup>1</sup> called & spent the evening with me

Chicago

Saturday July 7 Attending Court, & trying cases—Pretty day

Sunday July 8 In company with Bryant of Peoria I went to day to the old school Presbyterian Church North of the River & heard the Rev Mr Richardson.

He preached a very interesting and eloquent sermon from the text "the fruit of the spirit is love". The day was rainy & disagreeable, and I did not go out again.

Mr Root & Mrs Stewart of Quincy arrived this morning on their way East—Dummer of Beardstown & his little daughter are also here

Chicago

Monday, July 9 1855 Attending Court—The day is quite warm & I have on linen clothes for the first time since my arrival

Tuesday July 10 Damp, hazy, disagreeable morning. Compelled to resort to cloth clothes again to make myself comfortable, but had to change several times through the day—sometimes too warm for cloth, and at others too cold for linen Attending Court

Wednesday July 11 Argued this morning the case of Forsythe vs Kellogg which we commenced yesterday

Chicago

Judge Storer<sup>2</sup> & Judge Spencer of Cincinnati were on the bench with McLean & Drummond. Senator Dayton<sup>3</sup> and Chief Justice Greene of N. J. also in the Court room to whom I was introduced, and with the former of which I had a very pleasant conversation.

Williams, Lincoln & myself took tea at Blackwells x x x

<sup>1</sup>Eliphalet W. Blatchford, born 1826. Graduate of Illinois College; then in the lead business in Chicago; afterward a prominent Chicago philanthropist.

<sup>2</sup>Bellamy Storer, 1798-1875. Elected judge of the Superior Court of Cincinnati, 1854. Judge Spencer was a member of the same court.

<sup>3</sup>William Lewis Dayton, 1807-1864. United States senator from New Jersey, 1842-1851; Republican candidate for vice president, 1856; nominated minister to France by Lincoln, 1861. Seward later told Browning this was a political reward for swinging the New Jersey delegates from Seward to Lincoln at Chicago in 1860. See diary entry for November 15, 1866.

Thursday July 12 Been engaged all day in case of Forsythe vs Peoria which we commenced yesterday and have not yet completed I made my argument to the jury just before the adjournment.

After tea went with Meeker riding in his buggy Fell in with Miss Fanny & Miss Anna McGhee two very pretty girls riding on horse back accompanied by their Uncle & Cousin. I was introduced to them. We rode & chatted with a while & parted company with Miss Fanny & her uncle. Sometime after when we were crossing the bridge of the South branch of the River her horse came dashing past us at full speed very much frightened & running away. She rode him well, but her long skirt fluttered in the wind and added to his fright & speed. She was a frail girl—her strength was failing her fast, and I expected every moment to see her dashed upon the hard plank street over which her horse was flying. She cleared the bridge—had left us about a 100 yards behind, and was dashing past a crowd of men upon the side walks, when one gallant & fearless fellow rushed into the street in front of the horse & succeeded in seizing him by the bridle. A few wild heavy plunges, and his race was over. He held him fast—Miss Fanny had kept the saddle and was saved. We drove up—I assisted her from her horse gave her my place in the buggy, and walked back to my hotel. I mention this because I don't remember ever to have seen arrested in his mad flight in this way before, and because the whole thing was a most perilous and exciting adventure Stranger as she was Miss Fanny had been the cause, to me, within the compass of a few minutes of almost the extremes of pain and pleasure—Emotions akin to agony at her peril, and of intense pleasure at her rescue from the danger that impended

Friday July 13 Concluded the case of Forsythe vs Peoria, but the jury were still out at the adjournment of the court. Are to return a sealed verdict. Judge McLean charged strongly in my favour—that is for the Defendant, & I think we must succeed. Williams & Lincoln on the other side

After tea I took a walk to the lake and into the depot of the central R.R. which is on the lake—A very fine stone building



800 feet long, and I think 160 wide. Walked some distance up the river & was astonished at the immense business doing in grain & lumber. For several miles up the river it is crowded with shipping, receiving & discharging cargoes. This is now a place of great business and destined to become a very large & important City. It rather grows upon me, and my impressions are more favourable than at first. Still I would not like to live here. The climate is cold & variable, and the place has no feature of beauty except the lake. That is all poetry, but the land side all prose—One vast plane without a single undulation. A flat, dead surface, which in wet weather can be little better than a marsh

Chicago

Chicago

Saturday July 14 1855 Judge McLean left last night, and we are now proceeding with Court, before Drummond alone. Jury returned verdict in the case of Forsythe vs Peoria for the Defendant—

Now trying case of Bryant vs Gregg, French claim No 29.

Hon Charles Sumner<sup>1</sup> of Mass: arrived last evening & stopped at this house. I was introduced to him & had an hours very pleasant conversation last night, and have met him again several times to day. E B Webb Esqr of Carmi arrived this evening—Have not seen him for some years before and glad to meet him

Chicago

Sunday July 15 1855 This morning went again to the North Presb: Church and heard Mr Richardson preach another most excellent sermon from the text "The fruit of the spirit is love & joy"

Was not out again during the day—Fine warm day—rained some as I went to church in the morning

Monday July 16 This is the only really warm day we have had since I came here. It began warm & continued so all day. Attending Court—Met Seaman at the Tremont this morning on his way home from the East Hay arrived to day from Pittsfield

Chicago

Tuesday July 17 1855 Another very warm day Attending Court & trying cases—Get no time for sight seeing.

<sup>1</sup>Charles Sumner, 1811-1874. Senator from Massachusetts, 1851-1874.

About three O'clock this afternoon had a very heavy rain, but still very warm at night

Wednesday July 18 Attending Court. Argued to day the case of Papin vs Hall<sup>1</sup>—Continues very warm. Took a long walk into the Southern part of the city Houses small, in different and crowded together, and streets dirtier than I have ever seen elsewhere—owing probably to the dead level of the surface—still town growing rapidly

Chicago

Thursday July 19. 1855 Attending Court—Very warm—linen pantaloons & thin gingham coat oppressive—From 4 to 5 O'clock p. m. turned suddenly cold, and compelled to put on drawers & cloth coat & pantaloons to keep from suffering.

Met with John C Breckenridge<sup>2</sup> of Ky here to day—Was to have dined with me, but prevented by the painfulness of his eye in which he got some cinders on rail road car yesterday Now at night tis raining & bleak & chilly as Nov:

Chicago

Friday July 20 1855 Raining, & cold & bleak, very much like a Nov morning. Have had to put on a winter under shirt & woollen socks. A misty, autumn like rain has continued to fall all day, and now at night tis colder than it was this morning Fire would not be uncomfortable.

Have closed my business in Court—packed my trunks, and expect, with the blessing of providence, to start home in the morning by the way of Burlington. I would probably owing to the low stage of water above the rapids, go with more comfort by St. Louis, but hope to meet my dear E. in Burlington

x x x

<sup>1</sup>Papin vs. Hall. This case, later carried before the United States Supreme Court and won by Browning, involved a complicated land dispute at Peoria, Illinois. It was pointed out that during the French period the *habitants* settled without grant from any government, taking the plots they wished and often moving from one to the other without any record of title. In 1820 and 1823, Congress gave title to these settlers on the basis of survey and public registration. This case is recorded in 24 Howard, 132. See also the diary for January 4, 1860, *post*, 389.

<sup>2</sup>John C. Breckenridge, 1821-1875. Vice president, 1856-1860; candidate for president, 1860; major general in the Confederate Army and Confederate secretary of war, January-April, 1865.

**Chicago** Saturday, July 21. 1855 At 10 O'clock this morning left Chicago on the cars for Burlington on my way home. The day was cool—No dust & traveling pleasant. Dined at Mendota—reached Burlington just after night—stopped at Barret House, & went up to brother M's expecting to meet Mrs B—but she was not there, and I returned to the Barret House & staid all night. At Oquawka junction before I reached Burlington we picked up John Tillson, who had been East & was returning & had down day before a stopped at Oquawka. He came on, was with me in Burlington & my traveling companion home.

**Burlington** Sunday, July 22 1855 Raining this morning & continued to rain at intervals through the day. Steamer Ben Campbell made her appearance before breakfast on which I took passage for Montrose. Reached there about noon—took a hack & drove round to Keokuk where we arrived about 2 p. m. Stopped at La Clede House, and after supper took passage on Steamer West-erner for Quincy

**Quincy** Monday July 23. 1855 Reached home this morning before breakfast. Found Mrs Browning quite indisposed—Doctor attending her.

Robert L Browning<sup>1</sup> of Indianapolis in Town, to examine the Quincy House with a view to leasing it. Took tea with me this evening—intends going to Springfield in the morning & I have given him a letter to Enos.

Tuesday July 24 At home and at work in office—Fine, pleasant weather.

Went at night to concert at Kendall's Hall to be given by Duffield, but no audience—didnt sing

**Quincy** Wednesday July 25 1855 Fine summer day—Warm till 6 p. m. when it turned cool & commenced raining—Squire G. Shropshire called to see me to day. He & his family are at the Quincy House, where they expect to remain for a few days

Thursday July 26 Warm summer day. At work in office. Called this morning to see Mrs & Miss Shropshire & spent an hour with them Called again in the afternoon. At night went

<sup>1</sup>Robert L. Browning was not a near relative of Orville Browning.

with Miss Kate Palmer to a musical entertainment at Demans—  
An amateur affair but very fine—Beautiful summer night

Quincy

Friday July 27, 1855 Very warm day—At work in office—  
In the evening Mrs B & self called on Shropshires and Orren-  
dorfs families at Quincy House—

Saturday July 28. Fine, warm sunny morning. After break-  
fast Mrs B & self went riding with Mrs & Miss Shropshire.  
At 3 p. m. thunder storm and fine rain

At night attended meeting at Kendall's Hall to hear Coddington<sup>1</sup>  
on the slavery question &c. Third evening I have heard, and  
am unable to conjecture how he acquired a reputation as a man  
of talent & orator for, in my judgment he is neither—Affected  
in manner—lacking both words & ideas in matter.

Quincy

Sunday July 29, 1855—Attended Church in the morning—  
Mr Ash preached. Not out again. Towards night had thunder  
storm & heavy rain

Monday July 30 Fine day—Quite warm—About sundown  
commenced raining & rained heavily for an hour or more.  
Shropshire, his wife, daughter & some other friends spent the  
evening with us.

Tuesday July 31 Fine day—At work in office

Quincy

Wednesday Augt 1, 1855 Warm day—Very heavy rain in  
the forenoon. Went to the river in the morning, and saw  
Shropshire & his family off, and at work in office rest of the day

Thursday Augt 2. Very warm day—At work in office. In  
after noon Mrs B went out to Mr Barr's to remain some days

Friday Augt 3 Very warm—At work in office This morn-  
ing William & Emma went out to Mr Barrs, and at night they  
& Mrs B returned finding it too warm to visit

Quincy

Saturday, Augt 4 Warm day—Thunder storm & rain at  
night. At work in office

Sunday Augt 5 Attended Church in morning but not out  
again Still quite warm

Monday Augt 6—Cooler—Delightful day. At work in office

<sup>1</sup>Ichabod Coddington, 1811-1866. Antislavery lecturer and agitator; Con-  
gregational minister; actively engaged in the Republican party, 1854-1856.

Tuesday Augt 7 Fine day—At work in office.

My young friend Anna R Erskine died at 6½ A. M. to day, of hemorrhage of the lungs, of which she has lingered for more than a year

Quincy

Wednesday Augt 8. 1855 At work in office.

At 5 P. M. attended the funeral of Miss Anna R Erskine

Thursday Augt 9 At work in office

Friday Augt: 10 Quite cool this morning

At work in office

Saturday Augt 11 Warm & cloudy. At work in office

Sunday Augt 12 Rained all night last night & raining this morning—Warm day. Attended church in morning—Rode out to Cox's in afternoon—Heard Mr Mears preach at N S<sup>1</sup> church at night

Quincy

Monday, Augt 13, 1855 Quite warm. Rained most of fore noon & quite heavily. At 5 P. M. attended funeral of Roesler, editor of German whig paper. His death was, no doubt, occasioned by his intemperance. He drank very hard, and did the cause he professed to advocate no good by his paper. He had been discharged by the committee who controlled the press some ten days before.

Tuesday Augt 14 Rained most of last night, and has been raining at intervals through the day, & is still very warm & cloudy. Much grain yet standing in shocks, & being greatly injured At work in office

Quincy

Wednesday Augt 15. 1855 Warm & sunny day—first we have had without rain for sometime

Received to day a paper from Terrehaute dated July 28 & mailed Augt: 8

Thursday Augt 16 Very cool, misty day—At work in office

Friday Augt 17 Bright, sunny day, but unusuallay cold. Fire necessary to comfort—Have fire in the office all day

Baughman commenced re-roofing my house to day—the shingles being so much decayed as to cause it to leak

<sup>1</sup>New School Presbyterians.



Quincy

Saturday Augt 18. 1855 Bright, pleasant day, but very cool—At work in office

Sunday August 19 Another bright, cool day. Attended Church in morning as usual. At night went with Misses Palmers to hear Mr King

Monday Augt 20 Delightful day. Much warmer than for some days past. At work in office

Tuesday Augt 21 Fine day. At work in office Mrs B staid all night at Mr McCandlishs with Miss Dora Howells who is dangerously ill.

Rained at night, and became quite cool before day

Quincy

Wednesday—Augt 22 1851 Cool this morning, but much warmer in afternoon—At work in office.

Thursday Augt 23 Warm day—At work in office

Friday Augt 24 Warm day—Macomb commenced smoke house for me to day I removed small plum tree from the place where the house is to stand, and replanted it, & have some curiosity to see whether it will live. Mr B & self took tea & spent the evening at Mr Pearsons

Saturday, Augt 25 Cloudy, but very pleasant day—At work in office

Quincy

Sunday—Augt 26 1855 Attended Mr McCandlishs Church in the morning, and Mr King's at night

Monday Augt 27. Very cold morning—Had fire in office—but pleasant day. At work in office

Tuesday Augt 28 Very fine day—At work in office—At 5 P. M. Sidell, Mrs B & self went to Everets to party. Large company & abundance of fine peaches. Mrs B returned home at 9½ O'clock with C. M. Woods & family—Sidell & I remained to 11½ and brot to Town with us in our carriage Mrs Cofield, Miss Konantz & Mr Billings

Quincy

Wednesday Augt 29 1855 Fine day—at work in office

Thursday Augt 30 Went to Plymouth & back on Rail road—Bull's, Bushnell's Church's, Seaman's & Woodruff's families along. I took Emma & left her at Augusta till our return—Very

warm day, but spent it pleasantly—Dined at Bell's tavern & got home to supper—Road good & Country very beautiful

Quincy

Friday Augt 31 Another very warm day.—At work in office

Saturday Sept 1 1855 Very warm day—At work in office

Sunday Sept 2 Attended church at Mr McCandlishs in the morning—Mr Kings at night—Very warm day—

Monday Sept 3 At work in office—Cloudy, & Cooler than for some days past, but very pleasant

Tuesday Sept 4 At work in office

For several days past has been warm & cloudy, threatening rain, but giving none

Wednesday Sept 5. Warm & cloudy. At work in office

Quincy

Thursday Sept 6 1855 Bright warm day—At work in office.

Frank Minshall arrived last night & entered Fisher's store

Friday Sept 7 Bright warm day—At work in office

Saturday Sept 8 Still very warm—At work in office

Sunday Sept 9 Very warm day—One of the warmest of the season Attended Mr McCandlishs Church in the morning—and at night the Episcopal & heard bishop Hawkes<sup>1</sup>—Common place both in matter & manner

Refreshing shower in afternoon

Quincy

Monday Sept 10 1855 Another very warm day At work in office

Tuesday Sept 11 Still warm. At work in office

Wednesday Sept 12 Some rain this morning, and afternoon quite cool

Miss Ella Browning & her brother from La Grange came down this morning. At night went with Miss Ella to Methodist Protestant Church, conference being in session, & heard a sermon

Thursday Sept 13 Quite cool day—Miss Ella & her brother left on Sparhawk this morning—At work in office

Jas S. Rollins Esqr<sup>2</sup> of Missouri spent the evening with us

<sup>1</sup>C. S. Hawks, consecrated bishop of Missouri, 1844.

<sup>2</sup>Possibly James S. Rollins, a conservative Democrat who served as congressman for the ninth Missouri district from 1861 to 1865.

Quincy

Friday Sept 14 1855 Pleasant day—At work in office

8

Saturday Sept 15 Rained heavily last night & this morning—  
Quite warm. At work in office

Sunday Sept 16 Attended church in morning. Mr McCandlish being absent Mr Story of protestant Methodist church preached—Warm day

Monday Sept 17 Exceedingly warm day—At work in office

Tuesday Sept 18 Excessively hot. At night turned cool & rained

Quincy

Wednesday Sept 19 1855 Rained last night & turned cold. Cold, cloudy, misty day—Fire necessary to comfort

Thursday Sept 20 Dark, misty morning, but cleared off pleasantly in the afternoon

Friday Sept 21 Delightful day. At work in office

Saturday Sept 22 Cloudy & cooler than yesterday At work in office

Sunday Sept 24 Attended church in morning & heard excellent sermon from Mr Moore, who preached for Mr McCandlish. Heard a stranger at Mr Kings church at night—Very warm day—

Quincy

Monday Sept 24 1855 Very warm day. At work in office. In afternoon heard Hon Mr Geddings of Ohio deliver political speech at the Hall, & again at night

Tuesday Sept 25 Another warm day with occasional showers. At work in office Mr Nichols of Macomb took tea with us

Wednesday Sept 26 Bright day, but very cool—fire necessary to comfort

At work in office

Thursday Sept 27 As lovely an autumn day as heart could wish

Mrs Cox dined with us & went home in the afternoon with & chill after which Mrs B & I called to see her

Quincy &  
Spring-  
field

Friday Sept 28 1855 At 11 A M took passage on the Steamer Ben Campbell for Alton on my way to Springfield Read Mary

Lyndon—Some good writing, good sense & sound truth, and a great deal of radicalism, Fourierism, Spiritualism sentimentalism & nonsense in general—Nevertheless quite interesting

Spring-  
field Saturday Sept 29 Landed at Alton about day and escorted a young lady up to a Mrs Battertons far on the hill. Returned to the Franklin House & breakfasted Commenced raining gently about sun rise & continued through most of the day. At 9 A M took the cars for Springfield where I arrived to dinner and stopped at the American

The Grand Lodge of Masons meets here on Monday, and many delegates are already arriving x x x

Sunday Sept 30 Cold morning—must have been frost—Fire very necessary to comfort. Attended prayers in the parlor at 9 A M—Went to church & heard old father Bergen preach in the morning—Late in afternoon called at Fondy's, and at night went to church and heard Mr Dodge preach on the Conversion of Paul—a good sermon

Spring-  
field Monday Oct 1 1855 To day Judge Treat commenced the first term of his Court as Judge of the Southern U S District for Illinois—I had my cases all disposed of and prepared to leave for home in morning A raw, cold, cloudy day. Called at Mr Dodges & Mr Edwards. x x x

Tuesday Oct 2. Pleasant sunny day. At 8 A M left Springfield on the cars for St Louis, where I arrived at 2 P. M. on board Steamer Rein deer, & took passage on Steamer Keokuk for home

Ridgely came down on Cars this morning to St. Louis Had long talk on politics—differed none in principle, but some in our views of practice

Quincy Wednesday Oct 3 1855 Bright pretty day. On the River on Steamer Keokuk, on my way home, where I arrived at 7 P. M. & found all well

Mrs I V W Dutcher came up on board boat—Crowded with passengers—

Thursday Oct 4 Intended to take the cars for Carthage this morning, but mail matter recvd in my absence makes it necessary

for me to remain at home a day, and I am here at work in office. Has been a bleak, cloudy day, and now at night, is raining briskly with cold N W wind blowing

Gathered from the garden to day as beautiful roses as ever bloomed

Quincy &  
Carthage

Friday Oct 5 1855 Cold, bleak day. At 7 A. M. left home on the cars for Carthage—reached Plymouth at 11 O'clock—took dinner at Bells & got McCarty to bring me on to Carthage in a buggy where I arrived at 4 P. M. & stopped at Artois Hamiltons

Saturday Oct 6 Frost this morning & cold day. Attending Court. At noon adjourned till Monday & most of the lawyers left. I remain at Hamiltons

Carthage

Sunday Oct 7 Heavy frost this morning & very cold No church to go to and I have spent the day in my room reading the Bible & the correspondence of Rev Sydney Smith. This last is pleasant light reading, but there is not much in it after all valuable for any other purpose than to amuse. It covers the periods of the wars of Napoleon, and the last war between the U S & Great Britain, but none of the great events of those times are discussed or elucidated—hardly alluded to. He sometimes scolds

all

Carthage

Jeffrey for admitting into the Edinburg review articles of infidel tendencies because they may impair the popularity of that Journal, but in no instance urges the higher considerations of injury that may be done to readers both in their temporal & eternal welfare. Indeed our interests beyond this life and seldom hinted at. No one can hate *cant* more than I do, but I acknowledge that the value of these letters would have been enhanced in my estimation by some occasional evidences of the sincerity of his belief of the Christian religion, and an earnest zeal for the eternal welfare of his fellow creatures. With all his show of liberality he was rather a bigoted churchman, with a warm feeling for the Catholics, and an undisguised dislike of Methodists & dissenters in general. These impressions are derived alone from his published correspondence—His other works I have not read, & it is possible my opinions might be modified by them.



Carthage Monday Oct 8 1855 Most lovely day—Mild and bright—Attending Court—Tried case of Prest: & Trustees of Mt Sterling vs James Givens—right of way—Singleton for Pltf & I for Givens Got verdict & judgt in Givens favour for \$290

Tuesday Oct 9 Another charming day Attending Court

Wednesday Oct 10 Beautiful day and very warm. At work in Court trying case of George W Hyde vs Thomas Reid Trespass Williams, Wheat, Stephens & Bliss for Pltfs—Edmonds & myself for Deft

Carthage Thursday Oct 11 1855 Very bright, pretty day, but told cold last night, and fire necessary to comfort in the house to day.

Attending Court—Concluded case of Hyde vs Reid—Judgt for Pltf \$3—In case of Hyde vs Record & Emery we consented to judgt for Pltf of \$25

Friday Oct 12 Cloudy, cool day. Attending Court. Have got through with my business & expect to start home in the morning

Saturday Oct 13 At 9 A. M. left Carthage in Hamiltons buggy with True, & George Rogers for Warsaw on my way home. Arrived at Warsaw to dinner. After dinner called at Roosevelts for an hour or so, and went with Miss Mary to call on Mrs Orendorf. About 5 P M took passage on Sparhawk for home. Found on board Jno Wood & wife and a number of others returning from State fair at Chicago. Reached Quincy about 8½ Fine day

Quincy Sunday Oct 14 Very fine day. At Home Attended Mr King's Church morning & evening. Mr McCandlish being absent at Synod

Monday Oct 15 Pleasant day—Court commenced here to day Judge Sibley presinding & I am of course busy

Quincy Tuesday Oct 16 1855 Fine day. Attending Court—In the evening attended party at Lawrence's to meet his friends Mr & Mrs Woodbridge of Vermont

Wednesday Oct 17 Fine day. Attending Court

Thursday Oct 18 Very fine, warm day Resumed house keeping to day. Mr Palmers family and Mr Sidell remain with us a few days as our guests. Attending Court—

Friday Oct 19. Very warm day—Attending Court

Quincy Saturday Oct 20 1855 Rained last night & raining to day. Attended Court in the morning. At noon adjourned till Monday week

Sunday Oct 21. Attended Mr McCandlish's Church in the morning, but not out again. Cloudy, disagreeable day

\*Monday Oct 22 Dark, dismal drizzly day. Hard at work in the office In afternoon called at Quincy House to see Mrs & Miss Young, Mrs Moir & Miss Phelps and spent an hour with them. Arthur Griffith left this morning for Ky to be married to Miss Shannon

Quincy Tuesday Oct 23 1855 This morning Mrs & Misses Kate & Mary Palmer left for New England where they go to spend the winter Cloudy Cool day—Some snow falling in the afternoon At work in office

Quincy \*Wednesday Oct 24 Cold cloudy day—first day of the agricultural fair, but I did not go out to the grounds—the chief attraction of this day being a balloon ascension from the open space on the N side of Hampshire street opposite my house. At 4½ P M a Mr Mitchell was lifted from the earth standing in a car attached to the balloon, and floated off gracefully and beautifully East of my house, his direction being a little E of gracefully South, and upward. After drifting rapidly for say half mile, standing in his car & waving his hat to us below, he ascended almost perpendicularly for some distance when he apparently encountered a current from the South which drove him back toward us, still however rising higher & higher in the air until he finally struck a cloud which opened, wreathed around him, and he was lost to our view—Just half an hour had elapsed after he quit the earth till he passed from our sight—and in just one hour more we again caught a glimpse of him far to the South making his descent—At what distance from the starting point he came down I have not yet learned, but he reached the earth in

Quincy

safety and has returned to town. The ascent was very beautiful and the excursion altogether successful & satisfactory. After the balloon went up there was a trial of skill by four female equestrians, and at night a very handsome exhibition of fire works—of All of which, balloon, riding & pirotechnics we had a fine view from the windows & portico of my house. Many of our neighbours came in & availed themselves of the advantages thus afforded for seeing

\*Quincy

Thursday Oct 25 1855 At 11 A M drove out to the fair grounds taking Miss Jennie Pomeroy with me—returned to dinner, and in afternoon took out Miss Gunning & our little Emma—remained till the exhibition was closed for the day and brought in Miss Joanna Rice in addition to those I took out. There was a very large concourse of people—a fine display of the military companies, and a very good show in general. The day was so cool as to make overcoats & shawls necessary. Mr David H Nevins took tea with us.

After night Bushnell came for me to go with him tomorrow to Macomb on Rail road business, which I consented to do, and in consequence did not attend military party at the Hall

\*Quincy  
&  
Macomb

Friday Oct 26 1855 At 7 A M started on the cars with Bushnell for Macomb where we go in consequence of depredations committed on the rail road by a man by name of Blackburn, over whose land the road runs, and who resists its construction by removing ties, plowing up bed &c. Arrived at Macomb about 2 P M and stopped at Mr Browns hotel—After dinner visited the scene of the trespasses, and spent balance of after noon & evening examining laws &c. George Luce who has been reading law with me, came on the cars as far as Tennessee on his way to Monmouth where he expects to locate. Something warmer than yesterday

\*Macomb  
& Quincy

Saturday Oct 27 1855 Very fine day. Busy with those persons who have difficulties with the rail road—settled with Roberts & commenced suit agt Blackburn, and at 1½ O'clock took the cars for home, where we arrived at 7 P. M. The road is now completed to Macomb

Sunday Oct 28 At home—Beautiful day Attended Mr McCandlishs Church in morning & Mr Kings at night

h

\*Monday Oct 29 Attending Court—Very warm day At night went with Emma to Concert at City Hall given by Dempster—He sung very finely

\*Quincy

Tuesday Oct 30 1855 Cooler than yesterday, but fine pleasant day Attending Court

Wednesday Oct 31 At work in Court—

Thursday Nov 1

Friday Nov 2

Saturday Nov 3 Hard at work in Court—Mild, cloudy weather, occasionally raining

Sunday Nov 4 Attended Mr McCandlishs Church in morning in company with Miss Mary Pearson Stormed & rained heavily at night, and did not go out again

Quincy

Monday Nov 5 1855 Cloudy but not cold—Attending Court

Tuesday Nov 6

Wednesday Nov 7 Fine weather—Attending Court

Thursday Nov 8 As lovely a day as can be Attending Court

\*Friday Nov 9 Another beautiful day Attending Court—Mr & Mrs Seaman & Miss Bettie Humphrey dined with us Miss Gunning came to day to board with us

Saturday Nov 10 Warm & cloudy. No Court to day & hard at work in office

Quincy

Sunday Nov 11. 1855 Fine day—Attended Mr McCandlishs Church in morning & at night went with Miss Gunning to first Congl. Church to hear Mr Emery—Preached very good sermon—Above mediocrity—Mrs & Miss Young came to our house yesterday on a visit, and will remain some days.

Monday Nov 12 Pleasant day, but something cooler than it has been Attending Court—took supper at Stones

Tuesday Nov 13

Wednesday Nov 14 Fine, warm weather Attending Court. Tuesday afternoon Mrs & Miss Young went to Keokuk

Quincy

Thursday Nov 15 1855 Warm day—Afternoon thundered, lightened & rained pretty heavily Attending Court

Friday Nov 16 Cloudy & much cooler after the rain—At night rained again & quite heavily

Attending Court through the day—

Saturday Nov 17 Attending Court—Cloudy chilly day—feeling quite like winter but not freezing

This morning Miss Ada Young returned to my house from Keokuk where she has been for several days

Quincy

Sunday Nov 18 1855 Cool, but rather pleasant day—In the morning attended Mr McCandlishs Church & heard proffessor Moore preach. At night went to Mr Kings

Monday Nov 19 Quite cool—Attended Court part of the day, but most of the time preparing to start to Washington on Thursday. Mrs Young returned to my house from Keokuk this morning James Black of Springfield came with her—\*At night I went with Miss Adda Young to see Bullards Panorama of N. Y.

Tuesday Nov 20 Cloudy—thretening rain. Doing errands & getting ready to leave home. Sidell, Miss V Church &c spent evening with us

Quincy  
Wednes-  
day

\*Wednesday Nov 21 1855 Bright but cold day—Coldest of the season—Court adjourned Bushnell came into the office this forenoon & informed me that he had just returned from St. Louis & brought his sister Mrs McDonald with him, having taken her from her husband for final separation—he being a drunkard & beast & having treated her most brutally from the time of their marriage

\*Thursday Nov 22 Between 10 & 11 this morning left home for Washington City to attend Supreme Court of the U. S. Took passage on Steamer Die Vernon for Alton, where I expect to take the cars to Springfield desiring to stop there awhile. Mr & Mrs Roosevelt, called at my house, on their way to St Louis, and continued on down on the Die—Mrs Ford & other acquaintances also on board. The day was quite cold, and at night sleeted a little. Left at my house when I took leave, Mrs & Miss Young, Miss Gunning & Mr Palmer.

On the  
wing



Friday Nov 23 Just before 8 O'clock this morning landed at Alton & stopped at the Franklin House for breakfast \*At 10 took the cars for Springfield where I arrived at 1 P. M. and stopped at the American Took tea at Jack Smiths, & after tea Mrs S & I called at Dav Browns. The day has been warmer than yesterday, succeeded by a beautiful moonlight night x x x

Spring-  
field Saturday Nov 24 1855 At 5 O'clock this morning left Springfield for Ottowa, via Decatur—breakfasted at Decatur at 7—then took the central road to Lasalle—and at Lasalle the Rock Island & Chicago road to Ottowa, where I arrived at 1 P. M.

I came here to get copies of opinions recently delivered by our Supreme Court in relation to our limitation laws, to take

with me to Washington, but they had not been received <sup>but</sup> by the Clerk, and my trip there was bootless. As no passenger train would go from here again till Monday afternoon, and I would economize a day in my trip to Washington by getting to Chicago tonight, I took a freight train at 5 P M riding in an emigrant car without back, or cushion & arrived at Chicago about 1 O'clock in the morning—The day has been quite cool—After night it rained—sleeting a little at first.

Chicago

Sunday Nov 25 Reached Chicago at 1 A. M. & walked about a mile, through a cold rain to the Briggs House—Mr Hugh Nelson, the Conductor, promised to have my trunk taken care of for me, but this morning when the porter of Briggs House was sent for it, he returned reporting that it could not be found. After dinner I took a hack—hunted up Nelson—got him to go with me, when the trunk was found without any trouble whatever Not getting my trunk I could not dress myself, & hence did not go to church—Was not out of the house till I went in pursuit of my trunk. The day has been quite mild and the nights are lighted by a full moon, but I will try and sleep tonight & resume my journey in the morning

Chicago

\*Monday Nov 26 At 7¼ this morning took the cars for Cleveland on Southern Mich: Road—Ran along Lake Michigan for some distance which seemed to be quite above us—Country flat, intersperced with Lakes—inclined to be marshy—heavily

timbered, and I should think thin soil. This its general character, thro Illinois, Indiana, Michigan & Ohio all of which we have traversed to day—Dined at White Pigeon, Mich—changed cars at Toledo, & reached Cleveland about 9½ p. m. where I stop for the night at the Angier House. The day has been cloudy & cool—Some little snow on the ground—Mr Marsh & lady of Springfield Mass: & Miss Fry of Ottawa Ills: along to whom I was introduced by Col Fry<sup>1</sup> this morning.

Night came on very soon after leaving Toledo, and I lost the opportunity of seeing the country from there here, but we ran along the Lake shore through Sandusky

Tuesday Nov 27 1855 Rose at 6 O'clock—Shaved, breakfasted, & at 7½ took the cars for Wellsville, Ohio, on the Ohio River, where we arrived at 12¼—& stopped at the Missouri House for dinner—

Day bright & mild—Country generally level, reasonably fertile, very finely timbered, & creditably cultivated. As we approached the Ohio River it becomes more & more broken, and when within 15 or 20 miles of Wellsville, the scenery is wild, bold & very attractive. Some ever greens, I think pines on the high & rugged hills. No acquaintances along. The first day I have been without them. Have to wait here for a packet to convey me to Wheeling From 3 to 4 p. m. got on board Steamer Forest City for Wheeling, where we arrived about 9, and at 11 O'clock at night took the cars for Washington. A Mrs Atkinson of some where in Ohio, wife of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Auditor, with four children, on their way to Washington to join husband & father, were placed under my care on board the boat. One of the children was sick, and on the cars she became very sea sick. She was without a nurse or assistance of any kind, and it was no very pleasant matter to have charge of her, her children, trunks,

<sup>1</sup>Jacob Fry, 1799-1881. Born in Kentucky; came to Illinois, 1819; in Black Hawk War; commanded the regiment in which both Lincoln and Browning served; commissioner of Illinois and Michigan Canal, 1837. and canal trustee till 1847; collector of the port at Chicago, 1857; removed for supporting Douglas in 1859; served as colonel of volunteers in the Civil War.

Cleve-  
land

Cleve-  
land

Wheel-  
ing

Wheel-  
ing &c

boxes &c, but I did all in my power to make their trip pleasant & delivered them safely in Washington—Traveled all night—regretting that it was night as we were most of the time in the mountains, and I was anxious to have seen the scenery, all of which I lost

Wash-  
ington  
City

Wednesday Nov 28 Day break found us about 50 miles West of Cumberland, to which place we ran for breakfast, passing through some very beautiful mountain scenery—Some 30 miles West of Cumberland descended to a branch of the Potomac River, and continued along the margin and in the bed of the River until we were a long way East of Harpers Ferry—where we dined, that is, at the Ferry—Reached Washington ~~dined at~~ junction at 5 P M—Changed cars & arrived at Washington at 7 P. M. Stopped at National Hotel where I now am Has been mild, pleasant day—

\*Thursday Nov 29 Last night I was put in the garret—this morning I was brought down to the first floor, No: 38, a very good room Col Richardson called after breakfast and went with me to the capital & introduced me to the clerk of Supreme Court. I got the records in my cases & went to work preparing abstract & brief in case of Wright vs Mattison.

The day has been bright, but raw & very windy

Wash-  
ington  
City

Friday Nov 30 1855 Most diligently at work in my room all day upon abstract & brief. Members of Congress arriving rapidly & a great crowd of strangers assembling in the City Has been mild day

Saturday Decr 1<sup>st</sup> At work today in the law Library & at night in my room until near 12 O'clock. Met Sumner in Library and had a little chat with him Saw Greely<sup>1</sup> for the first time—Recognized him at first sight. Remarkable looking man—Have been introduced to a good many members of Congress but do not look at many of them so as to recognize them again

<sup>1</sup>Horace Greeley, 1811-1872. The famous editor of the *New York Tribune*.

†Wash-  
ington  
City

Sunday, Decr 2 1855 A very lovely day indeed. Judge Young<sup>1</sup> called to take me to the Methodist church, & Majr Flood to go with me to the Presidents place of worship, N. S. Presbyterian—but I preferred to go to Dr Gurleys,<sup>2</sup> old school, so Flood went with me. Some young man preached who was anxious to make an impression, but made only a failure. After services walked to Lafayette Square, saw Jacksons equestrian statue which stands in it &c. Went to Col Richardsons to tea & with Mrs & Miss Richardson to church & heard Dr Gurley preach a most excellent and impressive sermon Very strong wind about night

†Wash-  
ington  
City

Monday Decr 3 1855 Beautiful day. At work in law library in the morning, and in my room afternoon & night preparing brief

Tuesday Decr 4 Another fine day. Attended court this morning, & heard a California case argued by Attorney Genl Cushing<sup>3</sup> on one side & Mr Lawrence & Chancellor Bibb<sup>4</sup> on the other

They were all respectable, but none of them masterly efforts—Lawrence is a pleasant speaker, and make a good argument.

<sup>1</sup>Richard M. Young. Born in Kentucky, 1798; studied law; came to Illinois, 1817, settling first at Jonesboro, Union County, which he represented in the 2d General Assembly; elected circuit judge, 1824; lost office by repeal of the law, 1827; elected circuit judge in the Military Tract, 1829; resided at Galena until 1831 when he moved to Quincy; elected United States senator, 1836; at the end of his term in 1843 he was elected justice of the Supreme Court; 1847, appointed commissioner of the General Land Office; according to John Wentworth, he might have retained office but for a violent attack on President Taylor which through Browning and Lincoln found its way to Taylor's hands. He became clerk of the 31st Congress, 1849-1851, thereafter residing in Washington. He died in 1861. *Transactions of the Illinois Historical Society for the year 1906*, 325-326.

<sup>2</sup>Phineas D. Gurley, 1816-1868. From 1854 pastor of F Street Church, Washington, D. C. After 1859 this church united with the Second Presbyterian Church. President Lincoln attended Gurley's church in Washington.

<sup>3</sup>Caleb Cushing, 1800-1879. Served from Massachusetts in 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th congresses; appointed attorney general of the United States, 1853; commissioner to China, 1843; an able lawyer and unscrupulous politician.

<sup>4</sup>George M. Bibb, 1772-1859. United States senator from Kentucky, 1811-1814, 1829-1835; secretary of the treasury under Tyler for a year.



The Chancellor shows that he is not what he has been, altho there were occasional flashes of force and fire Attorney Genl speaks pleasantly and plausibly

Wash-  
ington  
City

\*Wednesday Decr 5 1855 Charming day—beautiful & mild as Spring On motion of Mr Crittenden I was to day sworn in as an attorney of the Supreme Court of the United States

Wash-  
ington  
City

The argument in the case commenced yesterday was concluded by Mr Cushing, Attorney Genl. A short case argued by Senator Benjamin<sup>1</sup> & Mr Miles Taylor<sup>2</sup> of Orleans—And another, *ex parte*, by Mr Lawrence of this City. Before opening of Court this morning walked into the grounds beyond the capitol, and saw Greenoughs statue of Washington. It is of gigantic size, and its attitude & draping is by no means to my taste. He is sitting, as if in the act of bending forward to rise, presenting a sword, hilt foremost with the left hand, and with the right pointing in the opposite direction at an angle of 45°. The proportions of the figure, however, are just—the muscles veins &c. well, and naturally developed, and the features striking & accurate. I do not intend this as criticism, as I am far from deeming myself competent to that task.

A note from Judge McLean this morning informed me that Cousin Ellen Browning<sup>3</sup> was in the City, and this afternoon I called on her at Mrs Peyton's & spent an hour with her. She is very much faded since I last saw her, & should not have recognized her. She is trying to have her pension renewed, which had before been granted for five years

Wash-  
ington  
City

Thursday Decr 6 1855 Another bright, lovely day. The case of Wright vs Mattison<sup>4</sup> in the Supreme Court came on to day. I commenced the argument for the Plaintiff in error, and

<sup>1</sup>Judah P. Benjamin, 1812-1884. United States senator from Louisiana, 1853-1861; attorney general, secretary of war, and secretary of state of the Confederacy. After 1865 a prominent lawyer and writer on legal subjects in England.

<sup>2</sup>Miles Taylor. Born in New York; member of the 34th, 35th and 36th congresses as a Democrat from Louisiana.

<sup>3</sup>Cousin Ellen Browning must have been a distant relative.

<sup>4</sup>The case of Wright *vs.* Mattison, Browning's first case before the United States Supreme Court, is reported in 18 *Howard*, 50.



spoke a little more than two hours. It is an august tribunal to appear before. I was surrounded by some of the ablest lawyers in America, by Senators & representatives in Congress, by the bright eyes of beautiful women—it was my first appearance in that Court, and I was, consequently, in the beginning very much agitated. But I soon regained my self possession, and felt as much at my ease as I ever did any where. I spoke with ease, and without fatigue, and have reason to believe that I did myself some credit. The judges were remarkably attentive—the audience seemed much interested, and my friends complimented me. Mr Williams followed for the Defendant, and I replied in a speech of half an hour. After dinner called on Miss Almira Williams & Mrs Trumbull at Willards Hotel, and at night prepared my brief in *Graham vs Bayne* to be argued tomorrow

*Wash-  
ington  
City*

\*Friday Decr 7 Weather still bright & charming—Argued case of *Graham vs Bayne* this morning in a speech of something over an hour. Mr Rush a lawyer of Philada introduced himself, expressed the pleasure he felt in listening to my argument yesterday, and asked me for a copy of my brief. Mr Maher a venerable lawyer from Baltimore also introduced himself, as also did Chancellor Bibb, Mr Benjamin of New Orleans & others. I am glad the arguments are over, and over in a way with which I think I have reason to be satisfied. Mr Williams followed me to day, but I did not reply, all the questions raised having been fully discussed Tomorrow, with the blessing of providence, I expect to go to Richmond on a visit to my friend Johnston

*Wash-  
ington  
D C*

Saturday, Decr 8 1855 Before day was up and on board a boat for Aquia creek which is down the Potomac 55 miles below Washington on the Virginia shore. Passed Mount Vernon at breakfast, landed at Aquia creek about 10 and at half past 10, were on our way in the cars to Richmond, from 80 to 100 miles distant—Reached Richmond  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 2—and stopped Johnstons—Found them all at home & well. After dinner walked down town, and into the Capitol to see Houdon's statue of Washington, but so dark I had not a good view of it. Mrs & Miss Pickett & Miss Selden came in & spent the evening with us—Day has been cloudy

*\*Wash-  
ington  
& Rich-  
mond*

ch-  
ond Sunday, Decr 9 1855 At my friend Johnston's—Commenced raining in the night, and is raining & blowing this morning, and we are close prisoners. None of us went out to church. Mrs & Miss Pickett & Miss Selden dined, took tea, & remained until 10 O'clock with us. Several young gentlemen also came in and spent the evening. The Johnstons are so manifestly gratified with my visit that I am glad I came. I have too been most kindly received, and the pleasure of the visit is really compensation for the trouble. They are a very estimable family, and seem to live happily together

ch-  
ond & Monday Decr 10 1855 Up before day—breakfasted in my room & went off in hack to rail road depot on my return trip to Washington—having said "good bye" to my friends last night—Just after day the cars departed. Ran through Hanover, Louisa,

Culpepper  
Orange, Culpepper, Fauquier &c. through ~~Hanover~~ in full view of the blue ridge—This last is much the prettiest & best county I have seen in the state. It is picturesque & favourably situated for farming—lies between the Rapidan & Rappahannock Rivers. I left my trunk in my room till I would go to

Richmond and when I returned this afternoon it was gone. Contains all my clothes, & many valuable papers, and I fear has been stolen.

ishing-  
D. C. \*Tuesday Decr 11 1855 Coldest day of the season—Attending Court—Heard arguments from Mr Maher, Mr Steele & Reverdy Johnson<sup>1</sup> of Baltimore—Was introduced to Johnson by Mr. Crittenden. Judge Wayne<sup>2</sup> & Judge Grier<sup>3</sup> came & made my acquaintance after Court adjourned—Was also introduced to Judge Campbell.<sup>4</sup> Judge McLean sent me a note inviting me to

<sup>1</sup>Reverdy Johnson, 1796-1876. United States senator from Maryland, 1845-1849, 1863-1868; attorney general, 1849-1850.

<sup>2</sup>James M. Wayne, 1790-1867. Member from Georgia of 21st, 22d, 23d congresses; appointed justice of the Supreme Court, 1835.

<sup>3</sup>Robert C. Grier, 1794-1870. Nominated justice of Supreme Court from Pennsylvania, 1846.

<sup>4</sup>John A. Campbell, 1811-1889. Nominated justice of Supreme Court from Alabama. Resigned at the outbreak of the Civil War, serving as assistant secretary of war of the Confederacy.

*Washington D. C.*

take tea with him, which I hope to do. After dinner called on Majr Flood & family South of Canal. At 6 in the evening called for Cousin Ellen Browning, and went to Judge McLeans at Mrs Carters to tea. Met Judge & Mrs McLean, Mrs Jones, Senator Foote<sup>1</sup> & wife of Vermont, Senator Collamer<sup>2</sup> of , Mr Buoy<sup>3</sup> one of the representatives from Maryland, and Mr Allison<sup>4</sup> one of them from Pennsylvania. Buoy said he was in to hear me argue a case in Supreme Court last week. We remained until 9 O'clock, and had a very pleasant party; altho' I had to do most of the talking myself, which, to me, is not a very pleasant thing. My friend Williams of Quincy was also of the party. Mrs McLean and Mrs Jones expressed to me their regret that I was not at their boarding house. After leaving there Cousin Ellen and I called at Mrs Irvings & spent half an hour with Mrs Irving, Miss Mann & Miss Searry. Very clear calm night, but pretty cold—Comfortable winter weather—the coldest we have had

*Washington D. C.*

Wednesday Decr 12 1855 Bright morning, but clouded about 10 A. M. and continued so through the day—quite cold. At 9 A. M. called at Judge McLean's & went with Mrs Jones to the capitol—Visited a room in the South wing finished in frescoe—an exquisite piece of workmanship, and altogether the finest painting I have ever seen next to DuBouf's pictures of the temptation & expulsion. Looked at the eight large paintings in the rotunda. In another room examined the model of the new capitol & a box of live snakes Visited the new library, which is a very fine room indeed, & spent some time in the examination of Audobon's birds; illustrated copy of Dante's inferno, & other books—At 11 took Mrs Jones home and returned to the Court room, and moved for the admission of Thompson Campbell<sup>5</sup> Esqr as an attorney of the Court. Listened to Mr Nelson in con-

*Washington D. C.*

<sup>1</sup>Solomon Foot, 1802-1866. United States senator from Vermont, 1851-1866; first a Whig, then a Republican.

<sup>2</sup>Jacob Collamer, 1792-1865. Postmaster general, 1849-1850; United States senator from Vermont, 1855-1865.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas F. Bowie, 1808-1869. Member of 34th and 35th congresses from Maryland.

<sup>4</sup>John Allison, born 1812. Elected to 32d and 34th congresses.

<sup>5</sup>Thompson Campbell, 1811-1868. Secretary of state of Illinois, 1843-1846; elected to Congress 1850; finally removed to California.

clusion of the argument of the case which was argued yesterday by Mr Reverdy Johnson & others In conversation with Mr Johnson he told me that when he was Attorney Genl. for 14 months at a salary of \$4000 pr annum, it cost him \$14000 to live in Washington that length of time. At 1 p. m. took a carriage—called for Mrs Richardson & got her to go with me to call on Mrs Parker & Mrs Chas. Jones, who was formerly Miss Chalfant of Falmouth. Mrs Jones was not at home—So I called again immediately after dinner, and spent an hour very pleasantly with her, and made an appointment to meet her & Mrs Senator Pugh<sup>1</sup> at 11 in the morning, and go with them to the Capitol.

At day break this morning the porter brought my trunk to my room, which he says he found at the depot of the Baltimore Rail Road. It was just in the condition I left it—Had not been molested, and I got every thing back, safe & unharmed

Thursday Decr 13 1853 At 11 this morning went with Kennett to Mrs Peytons to call on Cousin Ellen Browning At 12 I went with Mrs Browning Mrs Chas. Jones & Mrs Senator Pugh to the Capitol—Visited the Supreme Court room—the Senate & house of Representatives, the library, and the room in the South wing intended for the agricultural committee room, and which is finished in fresco painting. I saw it yesterday, but it is of such exquisite workmanship that I could see it with pleasure every day. Mrs Jones & Mrs Pugh were formerly Miss Chalfants of Pendleton County Ky, and I feel as if a boy again when with them. Mrs Pugh is an unusually beautiful, elegant and interesting woman. After finishing our walk about the capitol, Mrs Browning and I called on Mrs Crittenden & Mrs Governor Brown<sup>2</sup> at Dexters, and then went shopping & bought stone martin furs for my wife at \$55—and half a dozen shirts for myself at \$2.50 each

Friday Decr 14. After breakfast got a carriage—took Judge Young with me & called on the President—examined East room

<sup>1</sup>Wife of George E. Pugh, 1822-1876, United States senator from Ohio, 1855-1861.

<sup>2</sup>Probably the wife of Albert G. Brown, 1813-1880. Governor of Mississippi, 1844-1848; representative in 26th, 30th, 31st, and 32d congresses; United States senator, 1854-1861; later a Confederate senator.



Washington D. C. &c.—Went to Genl Land Office & saw Mr Hendricks<sup>1</sup> the commr on some business—Called on Mrs Richardson, and at Willards to see Miss Williams who was not in—Went to Rail road depot to see about getting away tomorrow, and then drove to the capitol, & discharged the carriage & parted company with Judge Young. Went into Court room & heard case argued by Senator Bayard<sup>2</sup> of Delaware on one side & Mr Crittenden on the other. After dinner called on Mrs Lindley at the Dexter House, & at 7 in the evening went with Baxter to Judge McLean's to introduce him to Mrs McLean & Mrs Jones—Spent a pleasant hour with them, and then went by myself to Mrs Peytons to tell Cousin Ellen good bye, and returned to my room to pack my trunk for a start in the morning

Raining, and not cold

\*Washington & Philadelphia Saturday Decr 15 1855 Rained all night & raining this morning. After breakfast left Washington for Philadelphia, on my way home. Reached Baltimore at 10½ & remained an hour, but I did not leave the depot.

Reached Philadelphia before night & stopped at Girard House. At night went to Walnut Street Theatre to hear Forrest,<sup>3</sup> who was doing Rolla in the play of Pizzarro and did it shockingly—Miserable actor. Mrs Drew,<sup>4</sup> in Elvira, played well, and was the only one who did. Miss Weston in Cora did passably—The rest were all exceedingly common place—Did not stay for the after piece

\*Philadelphia Sunday Decr 16 1855 Rained last night & raining heavily this morning. Borrowed an umbrella at the office, and went to

<sup>1</sup>Thomas A. Hendricks, 1819-1885. Representative from Indiana, 32d, 33d congresses; commissioner of the General Land Office, 1855-1859; United States senator, 1863-1869; Democratic candidate for vice president, 1876; elected vice president, 1884.

<sup>2</sup>James A. Bayard, 3d, 1799-1880. United States senator from Delaware, 1851-1864, 1867-1869.

<sup>3</sup>Edwin Forrest, 1806-1872. A famous American tragedian despite Browning's opinion. The play is best remembered by the allusions to it in Thackeray's *Pendennis*.

<sup>4</sup>Louisa Lane Drew. Born 1818, famous actress, mother of John Drew and Georgiana Drew Barrymore, grandmother of Ethel, John, and Lionel Barrymore.



old school Presbyterian Church on corner of Walnut & twelfth, and heard, I think, the Rev Mr Boardman preach

Had large audience and good sermon.

After dinner read some & slept some. It is now night. The rain has ceased, but it is very warm—The moon is sailing thro the sky, and the clouds sweep over her as they do in June, and it is probable the rain is not yet over. Sent my card to Ward last night, but have heard nothing from him

Monday Decr 17 1855 Bright and very mild morning—More like Spring than winter—Called & left my card for Ward, between 8 & 9 O'clock. He was reported not up & did not see him. Expect to leave for Chicago at 12½. About 5 minutes before I started Ward called—Left Philadelphia at 12½—changed cars at Harrisburg before night—followed a long distance up the Susquehanna—passed over the mountains in the night under the clear light of the moon—running often with mountains toppling over us on one hand & deep chasms yawning beneath on the other, and iron furnaces glowing on the hills like volcanoes—1½ in the morning reached Pittsburg & changed cars again

Tuesday Decr 18 1855 Just before day reached Alliance in Ohio 82 miles from Pittsburg, where we have to wait till 8 for the cars to Cleaveland. \*Yesterday found snow in the mountains—looked as if there had been a considerable quantity—So to day through Ohio

At 8 left Alliance—reached Cleveland at 11 where we have to wait till the afternoon for the Chicago cars—\*Left Cleveland at say 4 in afternoon—and ran all night by way of Toledo, White Pigeon &c.

Quite mild moonlight night—tho there is some snow on the ground & streams & ponds are frozen

Wednesday—Decr 19 1855—From 8 to 9 O'clock this morning reached Chicago—Stopped at Briggs—got my breakfast shaved & dressed & went to Court. Judge Drummond has concluded to do no business requiring my attention till after the holladays—so providence permitting I will start home tomorrow Very mild for this climate & season

\*Thursday Decr 20 Very mild weather—have walked about the City a great deal to day without an overcoat & have been quite warm enough Expect to take the cars at 10 Oclock to night for home \*Left Chicago at 9 at night in company with L Bull for Quincy

\*Gales-  
burg &  
Quincy

Friday Decr 21 1855 Reached Galesburg before day—breakfasted, & about day break started in a hack for Bushnell where we arrived about 1 P. M. and in time for the cars—took the cars & reached home at 8½ P. M. Found all well

Turned cold about 3 O'clock this morning & suffered considerably in the ride from Galesburg to Bushnell

Saturday, Decr 22 At home resting—Fine pleasant day—

Sunday Decr 23 Very cold. Attended Church in morning & heard Mr Millen of Clayton preach, who took dinner with us—Not out again

\*Quincy

Monday Decr 24 1855 At work in office—

Much the coldest day of the season—Some snow fell Saturday night, and a very fine snow falling most of the time to day, but too cold to admit of much

\*Tuesday Decr 25 Intensely cold—Spent my Christmast very pleasantly at home—Asbury dined with us.

Wednesday Decr 26 The coldest weather this morning I ever felt at this season of the year—Thermometer said to be 10 below zero—Moderated some in afternoon At work in office

Quincy

Thursday Decr 27 1855 Still very cold, but some what more moderate than yesterday. At work in office in the morning. In afternoon called on Mrs Pearson & Mrs De Kraft, Mrs Harkey, Mrs Bushnell & Orphana. Also on Mrs Gilpin but did not see her.

Friday Decr 28 Continues very cold. At work in office in forenoon—Dined with Williams, Jonas, Asbury & Sidell at Buddee's,<sup>1</sup> and then went with Mrs Browning to call on Miss Dean at Mr McFaddens

<sup>1</sup>Louis Buddee was a German refugee of 1848, who had established a grocery business in 1854.

Saturday Decr 29 No abatement in the cold. Snowing at intervals—At work in office

uincy

Sunday Decr 30 1855 The coldest day of the season—The River has been closed some days & yesterday they were crossing with horses—Attended Mr McCandlish's Church in the morning & Mr Kings at night

Monday Decr 31 Bright day & considerably moderated—At work in office

## 1856

Quincy

Tuesday Jany 1 1856 To day I enter upon a new year—myself and family in health, and surrounded with all the comforts of life, and the means of as much of happiness and enjoyment at command as mortals in this vale of tears ought to hope for. The mercies which have been shown me—the blessings which have been granted me, are far beyond my deserving. Oh Lord God I beseech thee to fill my heart with gratitude and love, and to give me grace to live through the coming year more in conformity and obedience to thy holy and righteous laws than I have ever done in times past, and more to love and honor thee.

Quincy

I confess myself a poor, frail, erring, sinful creature, who, of myself can do nothing—All strength must come from thee—Have mercy upon me, Oh heavenly Father, and grant me mental, moral & physical strength to fit me for, and sustain me in the upright and faithful discharge of all the duties of life.

A bright, beautiful & pleasant day—much milder than it has been for days past—Worked in the office till 11 A. M. Devoted the rest of the day to calling on friends, and at night went to a large party at Col Jamisons, in company with Mr & Mrs Bushnell & Mr Sidell—Mrs Browning had sore eye & could not go.

Quincy

Wednesday, Jany 2 1856 Pleasant day—At work in office. At night went with Wood, Flagg & McComb, to see, & talk with Webster, who is in a very unhappy state of mind, and who ought to, and probably will be sent to a lunatic asylum—

Thursday Jany 3. Turned cold in the night and this has been one of the coldest days of the season. In walking down to the office near 9 O'clock my coat collar was covered with frost before I reached Sixth street. At work in office—At night attended lecture at the Court house by Revd Mr Giddings on the atmosphere

incy

Friday Jan'y 4 1856 Much milder than yesterday but still pretty hard winter. At work in office, preparing to start to Chicago tomorrow to attend U S Circuit Court now in session there

Saturday Jan'y 5 About daybreak this morning left home for Chicago—Took the cars at 7 A. M.—Reached Avon at 1 P. M.—took dinner—staged 10 miles to Abindon; took the cars again & arrived at Galesburg before night—Got supper at the Haskill House, and at 9 P. M. took the cars for Chicago Has been a very cold day and night, but I have not suffered at all—had a comfortable ride

icago

Sunday Jan'y 6 1856 Arrived here this morning just at day break, and am now comfortably lodged in No: 9 at the Briggs House Cold, cloudy day, occasionally snowing a little

I have kept my room all day, and occupied myself sleeping, reading the Bible & writing to my wife

Monday Jan'y 7. A very cold day—Went to the Court room this morning and made out my docket; but found them trying a patent right case, and could not get at any of my own cases

icago

Went at night to Metropolitan Hall to hear Blackwell lecture on progress & conservatism—and a very poor lecture it—without method, and without justness or consecutiveness of thought, or chasteness & beauty of expression Entirely fragmentary, and very poor fragments.

I think it is as cold a night as I have ever felt. I sat within eight or ten feet of a very large stove, which was brought to a glowing red heat with anthracite coal, & still my feet and legs were painful with cold.

Tuesday Jan'y 8 Attended Court in the forenoon; but did not go out of the house after dinner. I think it has been the most intensely cold day I ever felt. In going to the Court room at 10 my coat collar was covered with frost in a few minutes—The same thing occurred returning between 12 & 1—the sun shining brightly

icago

Wednesday Jan'y 9 1856 Last night was certainly the coldest I ever felt. I had had a large fire in my room all day, and after 10 at night, before retiring I had the grate filled with hard coal,



which kept a good fire all night. On my bed was a sheet, seven fine, large rose blankets, and a counterpane, and to them I added my dressing gown, which was lined & wadded all through, and an unusually heavy thick overcoat, and still had not enough to keep me entirely comfortable. The day has been bright & sunny but almost as bitter as the night. Was at the Court room during the morning, but did not go out after dinner

Chicago

Thursday. Jany 10 1856 The weather has moderated—seems very much milder than yesterday. I can walk four or five squares without stopping to warm—Nevertheless when walking in the bright sun between 12 & 1 frost soon formed on the collar of my talma. At Court in the morning—not out in afternoon

Friday Jany 11 At Court in the morning—Not out in the afternoon except to take a walk. Much milder than it has been since I came here, but still cold & snowing a little in the afternoon

Chicago

Saturday Jany 12 1856 Comparatively mild. At Court in the morning. In the evening went to Metropolitan Hall to hear the celebrated phrenologist, Fowler, lecture on love & marriage. He's a great humbug, and by no means an interesting talker. Does not appear to be a man of much cultivation, but of a great deal of conceit. Quite a large audience of well dressed, decent looking men & women—and I was thankful that I saw no acquaintance there. His talk was chiefly of the sexual capacities of men and women, and the influence of strong sexual development upon character. He attributed nearly all the good of our nature to the amative propensities—advocated the education of boys & girls in the same schools &c. He said but little that met my approbation. In my judgment the talk was unfit for decent women to hear, and I am thoroughly satisfied that the influence of the whole thing is demoralizing, and ought not to be encouraged; that is, this sort of absurd, catch-penny, indecent lecture. Phrenology itself may have a basis in truth—probably has—but, like everything in the present day, it has fallen into the hands of quacks and charlatans, and is being brought into common scandal, infamy and disgrace, and being made the hand made of infidelity. He announced another lecture for tomorrow, Sunday, on natural religion.

Chicago

Chicago

Sunday, Jan'y 13 1856 Attended Mr Richardson's church in the morning—He being absent, some gentleman whose name I did not know preached a very good sermon.

Wrote to my wife & read the testament in the afternoon.

\*Went at night to a N S Presbyterian Church, Mr Patterson's, & heard a Dr Stiles of New Haven preach—He seemed to be in the midst of his subject when I went in, and continued to preach for about an hour & half after. He is a man of considerable talent, but I did not like his preaching. It seemed to me to lack what is called *unction*—but I was suffering with the cold, and in no very good mood for appreciating what he said

Chicago

Monday Jan'y 14 1856 Nothing notable has happened to day—Weather mild—

Tuesday Jan'y 15 At Court in morning. In the afternoon called to see Mrs Blackwell—Mild day—Thawed considerably in the sun

Wednesday Jan'y 16 Bright, pleasant day—thawing Closed my business here to day, and expect to start for Springfield in the morning

Thursday Jan'y 17 At 9½ this morning left Chicago for Springfield—Dined at Bloomington & reached Springfield at 7½ p. m. Stopped at American House

Fine day—bright & warm

Spring-  
field

Friday Jan'y 18 1856 Preparing cases in Supreme Court—Beautiful day—

In the afternoon called at Fondy's and saw Mrs Enos & Miss Jennie Barret—At night called at Mr Lambs & saw Mrs & Miss Young, and Mrs Black—x x x

Saturday Jan'y 19 At work in law library preparing case for argument Took tea and spent the evening at Jack Smiths

Sunday Jan'y 20 Turned cold & snowed a little last night, and very cold to day—Attended Mr Dodges church in the morning and again at night

Monday Jan'y 21 1856 At Court in the morning—in the afternoon called at Mr Dodge's, and at night Genl Singleton I

called at Gov Mattisons & at Mr David Brown's, where I met the Revd. John H. Brown<sup>1</sup> & wife & Mrs Jack Smith.

Has been a bright, but cold day

Tuesday Jany 22 Called on Mrs Edwards & Mrs Baker, Mrs Lincoln & Mrs & Miss Ridgely. Took supper & spent the evening at David Brown's with Dr Jno H Brown & lady, & some other friends

Has been a bright day but quite cold x x x

Spring-  
field

Wednesday Jany 23 1856 Bright day & something milder than yesterday Argued case of Mt Sterling vs Givens in Supreme Court to day, and am now ready and expect to start home tomorrow. Call'd at Mr Lambs in afternoon to see the ladies—All out except Miss Addie Young Spent the evening at Fondys with some friends x x x

Spring-  
field

Thursday Jany 24 Drank some coffee last night and could not sleep, and so over slept myself this morning and did not get off on the cars, as at one time I had intended doing, but hope to leave this evening—Is now 12 Oclock & have not yet had my breakfast. \*At 6½ P M left Springfield in the cars and arrived at Naples ¼ before 10 at night. Commenced snowing about the time we left Springfield and still continues. Stopped at McClosky's tavern to stay all night. Singleton with me x x x

\*Friday Jany 25 About two inches snow fell last night. At 7 this morning took the stage for Camp point. Nine passengers—Dined at Mt Sterling—then drove on to Camp point where I took the cars for Quincy at 7 P. M. and reached home at 8½—Found all well Has been quite a cold day.

Quincy

Saturday Jany 26 1856 At home—Pretty cold day, and snowing considerably, in the afternoon and at night

\*Sunday Jany 27 Attended Mr McCandlishs Church in the morning, and Mr Kings, with Miss Gunning, at night. Considerable snow fell last night, and now an average of from four to six inches, and sleighing fine.

<sup>1</sup>Probably the Reverend John H. Brown, brother of William B. Brown, who was the father of David Brown.

Monday Jany 28 Bright day—Not very cold. At work in office \*In afternoon Miss Gunning & Miss Jennie Pomeroy called in afternoon with sleigh, and took me out riding. Pretty cold

Quincy Tuesday Jany 29 1856 Snowed a little this morning and turned very cold At work in office \*Went at night to the Court house and heard lecture from Rev Mr Billings on the great West. Poor thing both in manner and matter—Very scrappy—great effort at wit & sarcasm, which was not successful, and very little regard paid to truth and justness of delineation Excessively cold night

Wednesday Jany 30 Bright day and much milder than yesterday.

At work in office. Cox dined with me

Quincy Thursday, Jany 31 1856 Very much milder. The severity of winter seems to have passed. Thawing considerably to day At work in office

\*Friday Feby 1 1856 Much colder than yesterday Severe winter—At work in office Miss Pearson, Misses Barr, and Dr Lane spent eveing with us

Saturday Feby 2. Very cold last night, and continues so to day. At work in office

Sunday Feby 3 Bitter cold morning—As cold as any of the season

Attended Mr McCandlishs Church in forenoon—Not out again

Quincy Monday Feby 4 1856 Still intensely cold. At work in office

\*Tuesday Feby 5 Not so cold as it has been, but still hard winter. At work in office through the day—At night went with Miss Gunning to the Court house to hear Library lecture from Revd. Mr King—subject Oliver Cromwell. Snowing

Wednesday Feby 6 About 2 inches snow fell last night & snowing heavily this morning when I got up & still falling now at 12 m. Much milder than it has been. \*The heaviest snow of the winter—I think about 5 or 6 inches—At work in office Cox & wife took supper with us

Quincy

Thursday Feby 7. 1856 Bright mild day in afternoon—  
Snowed a little in the morn'ing. At work in office

Friday Feby 8 Very pleasant winter day—At work in office.  
9

\*At 2 p. m. started for Palmyra in a sleigh with Mr & Mrs Seaman, Mr, Mrs & Miss Church, Mr Sidell, Miss Reynolds, Miss Dewey, Miss Gunning & Miss Woodruff & Miss Pomeroy—Crossed the River on the ice—all of us in one sleigh drawn by four horses—Had a very pleasant ride—Reached Palmyra about sun down—drove through the streets and took a look at the Town & then stopped at George Lane's tavern where we stayed all night

\*Quincy

Saturday, Feby 9 1856 Another pleasant day tho' not warm enough to thaw much—About 10 a. m. left Palmyra in our sleigh for home. Had a pleasant drive—recrossed the river on the ice & reached home in safety about half past one At work in office in afternoon

\*Sunday Feby 10 Bright, warm day, thawing rapidly. In the morning attended Baptist church, and heard Rev Mr Stockton preach. He is a young man of quite promising talents & preached a good sermon.

In afternoon heard the Rev Mr Emery,<sup>1</sup> at Westminster church & supplying Mr McCandlish's place who is absent

Quincy

Monday Feby 11 1856 Not so warm as yesterday but thawing considerably At work in office

\*Tuesday Feby 12 Again cold & snowing most of the day. At work in office At night attended Library lecture at the Court House by Professor Moore, on Julian the Apostate—Good lecture

Wednesday Feby 13 Thawing a little, but cold day—At work in office

Thursday Feby 14 Milder than yesterday & thawing more. At work in office \*Mrs Browning and I spent the evening & took tea at Mr Barrs

<sup>1</sup>The Reverend Samuel Emery, pastor of the Congregational Church, 1854-1869.



Quincy

Friday Feby 15 1856 The warmest day there has been since sometime in Decr Thawing rapidly & near night sprinkling rain a little At work in office

\*Saturday Feby 16 Thawing in the morning, but turned cold towards noon & before night froze hard—At work in office

Sunday Feby 17 Pretty cold day—Attended Mr McCandlishs church in morning & went at night with Miss Gunning to Mr Emerys church

Monday Feby 18. Bright mild day—Thawing considerably At work in office \*Mr & Mrs Emery, Mr & Mrs McFadden & some others spent the evening with us

Quincy

Tuesday Feby 19 1856 Cloudy day & snowing most of the afternoon, but wind from South & thawing some At work in office. At night went to Library lecture at the Court house by Dr Everett on eye sight

Wednesday Feby 20 Bright mild day—Thawing—At work in office

\*Thursday Feby 21 At 10 this morning took the cars for Monmouth to attend a Republican meeting there tomorrow—Morrison of the Republican came along on his way to Decatur to attend a Convention of Republican Editors<sup>1</sup> there on tomorrow. Bright pretty day—Reached Galesburg at 5. P M—Monmouth after 6 & stopped at Emerick House

Monmouth

Friday Feby 22 1856 Large Republican meeting here to day. In the afternoon I addressed a crowded audience at the Court House for an hour & three quarters, after which they passed conservative but firm anti-Nebraska resolutions—organized and adjourned

Cloudy disagreeable day, raining pretty hard late in the afternoon which turned to snow at night Dined at Mr Sterretts with Griffith & Luce

\*Saturday Feby 23 Left Monmouth about 9 this morning & reached home a little after 5 P. M. Mild day—Thawing rapidly

<sup>1</sup>The convention of Republican editors mentioned was an important step in the unification of the Anti-Nebraska Whigs and Democrats into the Republican party in Illinois.

Quincy \*Sunday Feby 24 1856 Attended Church in the morning and not out again—Mild day—thawing

\*Monday Feby 25 Very beautiful day—bright and mild as Spring At 10 O'clock A. M. took the cars for Plymouth on my way to Carthage Court—Reached Plymouth at 12½—Dined & Asbury, Lawrence & Wheat went on to Carthage in afternoon, I remained at Bells tavern, and at night delivered a lecture before the Lyceum on the poetry of Burns. The mud was deep and the walking excessively bad. I lost both over shoes in going from the tavern to the church—Still I had a good audience—the house was full—and they appeared to be very much interested

Carthage Tuesday Feby 26 1856 At 9 A. M. left Plymouth with in a one horse buggy with a driver and reached Carthage to dinner. The morning was bright & mild as Spring, and the snow rapidly melting away, but in the afternoon became cloudy & something cooler—Stopped at Artois Hamilton's.

\*Wednesday Feby 27 Turned cold in the night and snowed—two or three inches on ground this morning, but the day has been mild & thawing rapidly Tried chancery case of Ralston & others vs Cox, Elifritz & others Commenced it at Court House & finished it at Hamiltons after night

Carthage & Quincy \*Thursday Feby 28 1856 At 9 A. M. left Carthage with Wheat & Lawrence in Kimbroughs two horse buggy, and reached Plymouth at 1 P. M. Snow fell fast most of the way. Got dinner at old man Terrells at the depot, and at 3 P. M. took the cars for home, where we arrived a little after 5 P. M.

Thawing all day

Friday Feby 29 At work in the office

Ground frozen pretty hard this morning. Commenced snowing about 8 A. M. and continued to fall fast most of the day—Much of it melted as it fell, but still 3 or 4 inches accumulated on the ground

\*Quincy Saturday, March 1 1856 At work in office—More snow last night—Chilly disagreeable day—thawing a little—

Sunday March 2. Damp, chilly, disagreeable day—Attended church in the morning—Not out again

Monday March. 3 At 10¼ A. M. took the cars for Carthage. Lawrence, Wheat, and myself in company—Got dinner at old man Terrels at Plymouth depot, and then came on to Carthage in two horse buggy with Jno: Kimbraugh who had come down with us Stopped at Artois Hamiltons—Frozen hard this morning, but wind South & thawed during the day.

Carthage Tuesday March 4 1856 Cold last night & hard frozen this morning, but sunny day & thawing some. Attending Court

Wednesday 5 Hard frozen this morning & still cold, but moderating—bright, sunny day & thawing Attending Court.

\*Thursday March 6 Very cold this morning—Hard frozen & wind in N. W. Bright day, tho' thawing but little Attending Court

Friday March 7 Bright day & much milder than yesterday—Attending Court

\*Saturday March 8 A very cold morning but moderated during the day Attending Court

Carthage Sunday March 9 1856 Snow covering the ground this morning & quite cold Snowed a little more in the afternoon—wind in North—Attended Church in morning and heard Mr Swann preach

Monday March 10 2. below zero this morning ~~and~~ Cold, but wind in South Attending Court

\*Tuesday March 11 About three inches snow fell last night—Pretty cold day. Attending Court

Wednesday March 12 Attending Court. Still quite cold—thawing very little. Snow lying on the ground 2 or 3 inches

Thursday March 13 Same as yesterday

Carthage Friday March 14 1856 Weather something milder—At 2 P M adjourned Court till Court in Course, and expect to start home in the morning

\*Saturday March 15 Left Carthage after breakfast with Wheat & Lawrence in two horse buggy of John Kimbraugh—reached Plymouth to dinner—At 3 took cars & reached home between 5 & 6 P. M.

Sunday March 16 Pleasant day. Attended Church in morning—Mr Nichols & Dr Huggins dined with us. At night went to Mr Kings Church—

Orville O'Bannon here on his way to Keokuk to settle for practice of laws

\*Quincy

Monday March 17 1856 A fine spring day. The first we have had. Court was to commence to day, but the Judge has not arrived

Tuesday March 18 Court commenced & busy with its proceedings—Fine day, but ice still firm—A wagon & team crossed to day

O'Bannon & Hodges took tea with us

Wednesday March 19 Attending Court. Weather mild & ice beginning to give way

Thursday March 20 A very mild Spring day. The ice has given way and is moving off—Attending Court

\*Quincy

Friday, March 21 1856 Snowing heavily this morning but soon ceased, and day, mild Attending Court

Saturday March 22 Fine Spring day—Attending Court—\*Capt Allen of Fayette County Kentucky, & some other friends took tea with us.

Sunday March 23 Very fine day—Attended Mr McCandlish's Church in morning & Mr Kings in evening. Westerner arrived from St Louis to day—first since December—

Monday March 24 Cool in the morning, but pleasant afternoon—Attending Court

\*Quincy

Tuesday March 25 1856 Pleasant day—Attending Court—Orville O'B. left to day for Keokuk to settle for practice of law. Mr & Mrs Shirtliff of Mass: & the Savages took tea with us

Wednesday March 26 Snowing heavily this forenoon but melting as it falls. Late in afternoon became pleasant Attending Court

Thursday March 27 Attending Court

Friday March 28 Cold but very pretty day Attending Court

Saturday March 29 Attending Court

Sunday March 30 At Mr McCandlishs Church in morning.  
Mr Kings in evening

Quincy Monday March 31 1856 Hard frozen this morning & cold  
but bright day. Mr Palmer & Mr Delano left us to day

Tuesday Apl 1 Cloudy & trying to rain, tho' doing but little  
at it Attending Court, and at work in office

Wednesday Apl. 2 Quite cold & very windy Attending  
Court

Thursday Apl 3 Bright, pretty day—Court adjourned this  
afternoon

Dallam<sup>1</sup> of Oquawka came down to day at my request to see  
about buying an interest in the Republican office Is stopping at  
my house

Quincy Friday Apl 4 1856—Wood, Williams, Savage & others met  
at my office this morning, and we made arrangement to buy out  
Harkeys interest in the Republican for Dallam—After dinner he  
left for Oquawka to make his arrangements and move down soon  
as possible

Wagley & his wife dined with us—Cool day

Saturday Apl. 5 Beautiful spring like day—At work in office

\*Sunday Apl. 6 Cloudy day & rained a very little. Not out  
in the morning Attended Mr McCandlishs Church in afternoon  
& heard Mr Emery—At night went to Methodist Church & heard  
a negro

Quincy Monday Apl 7 1856 Very fine spring day—At work in office

Tuesday Apl 8 Finest day of the season—Very warm. At  
work in office

Wednesday Apl. 9 Another fine day but not so warm as  
yesterday—At work in office

<sup>1</sup>F. A. Dallam, editor of *Oquawka Plaindealer*, 1852-1855, of the *Quincy Republican* and *Whig Republican* thereafter. He once thrashed Brooks, editor of the *Quincy Herald*. Browning befriended him warmly, endorsing his note for the purchase of a house (*Quincy Whig*, September 20, 1856), and showing him much hospitality and kindness as later entries show.



Thursday Apl. 10 Mrs B & self rode out to Stewarts nursery this morning and got some ever greens and other things—Windy and very dry—have had no rain this spring, and the roads are as dusty as in mid summer At work in office

Friday Apl 11 Fine warm day, but very dry & dusty—At work in office

Quincy

Saturday Apl. 12 1856 Very warm this morning—A little rain just before day, but not enough to lay the dust. Delano left this morning for a visit home At work in office

Sunday Apl. 13 Cool to day—Attended Mr McCandlish Church in morning Mr Kings in evening

Monday Apl 14 Warm day—Rained a little this morning—tho very little At work in office

\*Tuesday Apl 15 Fine rain last night. Warm & windy to day—Running about begging for the Republican Newspaper,

\*Wednesday Apl. 16 Cool day—At work in office

Quincy

\*Thursday Apl 17 1856 Very windy day, and a little cool—At work in office. Mrs B & self took tea at Jack Fields. At night attended meeting at Court House to nominate candidates for Mayor, Aldermen &c.

Friday Apl 18 Very windy & dusty. At work in office

Saturday Apl 19 Cool, dry, windy day. At work in office. Mrs & Misses Palmer reached home to day from the East

Sunday Apl 20 Attended Church in the morning A Congregationalist minister from Montebello preached for us a very good sermon. After tea Mrs B & self called at Henry Bulls to see Mrs & Misses Palmer

Quincy

Monday Apl 21 1856 Bright pretty day but cool—Corporation election proceeding to day—\*Republicans carried every thing except Alderman in middle ward

Tuesday Apl 22 Pleasant day but somewhat cool—At work in office

Wednesday Apl 23 Pleasant day—At work in office in forenoon. At 3.45 in P. M. took cars for Macomb & reached there before 7. Stopped at Smiths hotel

Thursday Apl 24 Fine day—Attending court—Commenced argument of demurrer in case of Northern Cross Rail Road vs Chandler

Macomb Friday Apl 25 1856 Quite warm day—Sprinkled rain a little & turned cool toward night—Concluded the argument this morning in case of Northern C R R vs Chandler

\*Saturday Apl 26 Commenced raining about 1 P. M. & continued to fall with but little intermission until \*midnight—At 8 P M left Macomb on the cars & reached home at 11.

Sunday Apl 27. Bright day, but wind blowing very heavily all day & night At church in the morning—not out again

Monday Apl 28 Bright pleasant day, but cool—At work in office

Quincy Tuesday Apl 29 1856 Warm day—At work in office

Wednesday Apl 30 Very fine warm day. The warmest of the season. At work in office thro the day. At night attended lecture at City Hall by Mr George Sumner of Boston—Subject, old Europe & Young America, and take it all in all I believe the most interesting popular lecture to which I ever listened. He is a man of decided talent, fine powers of observation, good judgment, clear discrimination, a great fund of information and pleasing delivery

Heavy rain in the night

Quincy Thursday May 1 1856 Cloudy, cool day. At work in office. George Sumner, Williams Lawrence & others took tea with me

Friday May 2. Cloudy & cool. At work in office. At night attended lecture at City Hall by George Sumner Esqr on France & Louis Napoleon. He ventured the prediction that in from 4 to 6 months France & Prussia might be combined in a war against Austria. After the lecture went with Mrs Cox to party at Sam Church's

Saturday May 3. Cool cloudy day. At work in office

Quincy Sunday May 4 1856 Cloudy cool day. Attended Mr McCandlish Church in morning—Mr Kings at night

Monday May 5 Thunder, lightning, rain and heavy wind all through last night. Cool cloudy morning & raining at inter-

vals thro the day Heavy hail storm & a great deal of rair in afternoon

Tuesday May 6 Much warmer than yesterday, & sun shining part of the time. At work in office—\*At 5 p. m. left home in company with Mr Browning & Mrs Cox on Steamer Jennie Deans—Capt Malin—for St. Louis

Fine, bright after noon. River high. Just crawling out of its banks

St. Louis

Wednesday May 7 1856 Arrived at St Louis at 5 this morning—Mrs B & I stopped at Planters—Mrs Cox at Munroe House—Cloudy, cold, disagreeable day—Had ear ache, and got some Homopathic medicine of Dr Granger & have got well At night went with Mrs B. Mrs C. & Mrs Andrews to Wyman's Hall, and saw some very remarkable performances partaking of a dramatic character, by monkeys, dogs and goats. They were singular & entertaining—Also saw a four year old babboon, the first of the species I have ever seen. Night very dark, cloudy and threatning rain

St. Louis

Thursday, May 8 Bright morning & warmer than yesterday. \*Shopping with Mrs Browning—Dined at Monroe House. At night went with Mrs Cox & Mrs Andrews to St Louis Theatre to see the play of Aladdin—A very paltry thing & poorly played but the scenery was truly gorgeous and more than worth the money.

St. Louis

Friday May 9 High Flyer came in from Louisville this morning. Mrs Simpson, Mrs Hart, Mrs Taylor, Miss Susan Hart, Miss Grigsby &c on board. Met them at the boat and took them to the Planters House. Mrs Cox dined with us at the Planters. Mrs B & self took tea at Mrs Goddins I then went to Mr Ware's and spent the evening—Met Judge Treat & Lady, Judge Krum & Lady & some others

Yesterday went to museum at Wyman's Hall, and saw the finest collection of birds I ever saw—perhaps a thousand varieties—forty different varieties of the humming bird—all admirably stuffed and most tastefully arranged Also saw the skeleton of the Zeuglideon 90 feet long This is supposed to have been some kind of fish, or at all events a monster of the deep. It was found

in Louisiana embedded in a rock. Also visited on yesterday in company with Mrs Cox & Mrs Andrews the Mercantile Library. It is a credit to the City. The room is large, well finished & well arranged and the collection of books good. The lecture room is a very large & fine one with seats I think for about 1500 persons

Saturday 10 Mrs B & self breakfasted at Mrs Barrets with Mrs Simpson After breakfast Eliza went on board New Lucy & remained with Mrs Simpson & friends who were going up the Missouri River, until near noon, when she and I & Mrs Cox took passage on the Die Vernon for home. The day was very fine and warm—We left St Louis between 12 & 1 O'clock

Quincy Sunday May 11 1856 Reached home at 5 O'clock this morning—found all well—Miss Mary Pearson called & informed me that she had been charged with theft by Mr Barr and his family—that a search warrant had been taken out and her trunk searched I was never so astounded by any thing of the kind for I knew her to be a woman of the strictest integrity—an intimate friend of the family, who had done them many favors, and an inmate of the house at the time I have no doubt of her entire innocence—that she is the victim of a foul conspiracy—and the charge the greatest outrage I have ever known Attended Church in morning Fine day

Quincy Monday May 12. 1856 Fine day. At work in office. Delano started to Carthage this afternoon to take depositions Rained heavily at night

Tuesday May 13. Warm & raining. At work in office. Revd. Mr Cole & wife of St. Louis came to my house to day. At night attended party with Miss Gunning at Mr Henry Bull's,<sup>1</sup> to meet Mr Eb Baldwin & wife. Went in omnibus—came home after midnight

Wednesday May 14 Warm day. At work in office. \*Rich<sup>d</sup> Prewitt of Ky came to day.

Thursday May 15 Fine day—At work in office Rev Mr Cole & wife left on Packet this afternoon

<sup>1</sup>Probably Charles Henry Bull, brother of Lorenzo Bull and associated with him in business.

Quincy

Friday May 16 1856 Very fine day—At work in office. Rich<sup>d</sup> Pruett left on cars this morning

Saturday May 17 Commenced raining last night about dark and has continued without intermission till after noon to day, and quite cool. In afternoon I presided at Anti Nebraska meeting at the Court House which appointed delegates to the State Convention at Bloomington for 29 this month<sup>1</sup>

Sunday May 18 Very pretty day—Attended Mr Kings Church morning & evening and heard Mr Norton of Alton preach. Mr McCandlish absent

Quincy

Monday May 19 1856 Very beautiful day. At work in office

\*Tuesday May 20 Bright & very warm. Mrs Andrews & Mrs Chas. Morton dined with us.

Delano went to Macomb to take depositions

At work in office

Wednesday May 21. Not so warm as yesterday. Pleasant day. Walked about an hour with David Gillespie showing him the Town

Thursday May 22 Very warm fine day. At night addressed the people at the Court House in favor of \$200,000 subscription to Rail Road to Meredosia

Quincy

Friday May 23 1856 Very warm day. Rev R V Dodge and his mother arrived this morning to breakfast At night Mrs Browning, Miss Gunning, Mr Dodge & myself attended party at Mr Lorenzo Bull's—Bright, beautiful night

Saturday May 24 Another very warm day. After breakfast Mrs Dodge, Mrs Browning, Mr Dodge and myself took a ride round town—At work in office the rest of the day

Sunday May 25 Not so warm as yesterday Attended Church in morning & heard Mr Dodge preach Heard him again at night at Mr Emerys Church

Quincy

Monday May 26 1856 Cool this morning & some rain about 10 A. M. but soon became pleasant—At 5 P. M. Mr

~~Tuesday May 27~~

<sup>1</sup>The meeting in question organized the Anti-Nebraska party of Adams County.



Dodge his mother & myself took passage on steamer Die Vernon  
*Fine day At 5 P. M. Mr Dodge*  
 —they on their way home to Springfield, and I on my way to  
 Republican Convention at Bloomington by way of Springfield

Tuesday May 27. Reached St Louis at 5 A. M. Took pas-  
 sage on Reindeer to Alton at 7—thence by Rail Road to Spring-  
 field where we arrived at 1 P. M. I stopped at American House  
 with Mrs Edwin Draper of Louisiana Mo: who was on her way  
 to Jacksonville and who was placed under my charge by her  
 husband. At 7 P. M. saw her on the cars for her destination

Heavy thunder storm last night, and rained very hard on the  
 River where we were, and is cooler to day.

In afternoon & evening called on Mrs R V Dodge & Mrs  
 J. T. Smith

Wednesday May 28 Very fine day—x x x x x \*At 1  
 P M took cars for Bloomington where I arrived at 4 P M Cars  
 crowded with delegates, and the Town full of them on our  
 arrival. Very large crowd assembled and speaking in front of  
 the Pike House. I did not hear it, being otherwise engaged. No  
 resolutions had been prepared for the Convention tomorrow, and  
 no programme of Proceedings settled; and many discordant ele-  
 ments to be harmonized. I procured a room, got 15 or 20 of  
 the leading men of all shades of opinion together, settled upon  
 the order of proceeding tomorrow, and prepared and offered a  
 resolution intended to reconcile both Know nothings and Ger-  
 man's to act with us. After considerable difficulty and discus-  
 sion I finally succeeded in getting all who were present to agree  
 to it, and further to agree to support it in convention without  
 objection or amendment<sup>1</sup>

Thursday May 29 1856 Much cooler than yesterday, but  
 very fine day for our meeting. After breakfast, & before going  
 to the hotel, where the great mass of delegates were I prepared

<sup>1</sup>May 19, 1856, Browning had written Trumbull that he was going to  
 Bloomington. "We wish if possible to keep the party in this state under  
 the control of moderate men, and conservative influences, and if we do  
 so the future destiny of the state is in our own hands and victory will  
 inevitably crown our exertions. On the other hand if rash and ultra  
 counsels prevail all is lost." Trumbull MSS., Library of Congress.

Bloom-  
ington

resolutions upon the slavery question, and the subjects now agitating the Country. At 10 O'clock A M the convention met in a large Hall—hundreds present A Williams Esqr called to the chair temporarily. I moved appointment of a Committee to nominate officers for permanent organization. We soon selected them, and I reported, John Parmer<sup>1</sup> of Macoupin being President. The report adopted unanimously Committees on nominations, resolutions &c. were appointed. I was on Committee of resolutions. Presented those I had prepared in the morning—they were accepted—reported to the Convention, and unanimously adopted without change The Convention was very large, harmonious & enthusiastic I was called out and made two speeches in the afternoon Convention also addressed by Lovejoy,<sup>2</sup> Lincoln, Cook<sup>3</sup> & others, and adjourned at 7 O'clock P. M. having nominated Bissell<sup>4</sup> for Governor

Hoffman for Lt Governor<sup>5</sup>

Hatch Sec: of State

Dubois Auditor

Miller Treasurer<sup>6</sup>

Powell Sup: of Schools<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>John M. Palmer, 1817-1900. Formerly a Democrat; one of the leaders in the revolt against the Nebraska act; later major general in the Civil War; governor, senator, and Gold Democrat candidate for president, 1896.

<sup>2</sup>The Reverend Owen Lovejoy, 1811-1864. Brother of Elijah P. Lovejoy, killed at Alton in 1837; congressman in 35th, 36th, 37th, and 38th congresses, and leader of the extreme antislavery group.

<sup>3</sup>Probably Burton C. Cook, 1819-1894. State senator, 1852-1860, and Republican politician.

<sup>4</sup>William H. Bissell, 1811-1860, colonel in the Mexican War; Democratic congressman 31st, 32d, and 33d congresses; opposed the Nebraska act; elected governor, 1856. Died in office March 18, 1860.

<sup>5</sup>Francis A. Hoffman, 1822-1903. Born in Prussia; he withdrew from the ticket being replaced by John Wood of Quincy; was elected lieutenant governor in 1860.

<sup>6</sup>James Miller, McLean County. Perhaps the same man who was candidate for representative in 1842. He was elected state treasurer and resigned in 1859. There was a stray hint of a scandal connected with the matter, but it is impossible to trace the truth of it. See below, August 24, 1859, and *Chicago Press and Tribune*, September 1, 3, 10, 13, 1854; *Chicago Daily News*, September 2 and 3.

<sup>7</sup>William H. Powell of Peoria. Superintendent of public instruction, 1857-1859.

Bloom-  
ington

The Adams delegation consisting of Pearson, Tillson, Powers, Furness, Burns, Dudley & myself were entertained at K H Fells. Mr Williams, the other delegate was at Judge Davis. Expect to leave for home at 6 in the morning, on the cars by way of Springfield & Alton

In the  
road

\*Friday May 30 At 6 this morning in company with Mr Williams & Geo: Burns left Bloomington for Alton on my way home. Cars crowded with delegates on their return home. Mrs Governor Robertson<sup>1</sup> of Kansas along on her way back to the Territory, having left there three weeks ago to carry a part of the evidence taken by the Congressional Committee and which she delivered to Gov Chase of Ohio—Her husband is now a prisoner in Kansas on an absurd charge of treason & she is on her way to him. A small, pleasant, intelligent and very cheerful woman, good looking and about 27 years of age. I had a great deal of conversation with her—Saw her safely on the boat for St. Louis when we arrived at Alton at 12 O'clock and took leave of her.

Dined at Franklin House, and about 3 P M took passage on Jennie Deans for home. The day has been very cool—Frost at Bloomington this morning

Quincy

Saturday May 31 1856 Reached home at 5 A. M. Raining & continued to rain for several hours

\*At work in office

Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup> Fine day—Attended church in morning and heard Mr Chase preach. At night went to Mr Emerys church

Monday June 2. At 7 A M took the cars for Plymouth on way to Carthage to attend Court. Reached Plymouth at 9, where Jonas, Williams & myself took a buggy for Carthage where we arrived at noon. Jonas & I at Artois Hamiltons Very warm day

Carthage

Tuesday June 3 1856 Warm day—Attending Court At night political speaking by Jonas & Warren

Wednesday June 4 Very warm day—Attending Court. At night one Dennis Smith, a fat man, made a Nebraska Pierce speech at Court House

<sup>1</sup>A mistake for Robinson common at the time.

Thursday June 5 Warm day—Attending Court. Williams & Jonas left this morning

At night I addressed the people for two hours at the Court House against Pierce's administration, the principles of the Nebraska bill, and the practice under it

Carthage Friday June 6 1856 Fine day—Attending Court and trying cases

Saturday June 7. Attending Court & trying cases. Fine day

Sunday June 8. Cooler than it has been for a week or ten days, but very pleasant. The Judge & all the lawyers are gone, and I am at Hamiltons alone. Attended Church in morning & heard Swan preach—Kept my room all afternoon, wrote to my wife, read my bible &c.

In the evening was at Mr Cherrills until 10 O'clock where some of the musical people of the Town were assembled and singing

Carthage Monday June 9 1856 Rained last night & much cooler than it has been for a week past; but very delightful day—Attended Court during the day, and circus at night

but

Tuesday June 10 Fine day—Attending Court. At night Harry Stephens & Jake Davis<sup>1</sup> made long speeches at the Court House in favour of this pro slavery administration & its atrocities—When they concluded after 11 O'clock I replied to them for 15 minutes

\*Wednesday June 11 Fine day—Attending Court—At night Mr Williams addressed the people at the Court House on political subjects and against this administration

Carthage Thursday June 12 1856 Fine day. Attending Court

<sup>1</sup>Jacob Davis. Elected senator from Hancock County, 1842, 1846, 1850, 1854. The *Chicago Daily Democrat*, September 15, 1854, said of him: "'Jake' occupies about the same relation to the Hancock people that Wentworth has for a long while to the people of this district, and, of course had the Convention all in his own hands. He was a great man in Hancock County in the days of Joe Smith . . ."

\*Friday June 13 Clear bright day, but almost cold enough for fire. Concluded my business in Court in forenoon and expect to start home via Warsaw immediately after dinner.

\*After dinner went in Brawners hack to Warsaw—stopped at Ft Edwards house—took tea at Wagley's, then went with Cooley to Roosevelts, but no one at home except the children. Returned to the tavern & staid all night—Cold day—Had to wear overcoat & have fire in sitting room

Warsaw

Saturday June 14 1856 Bright, cold morning—Fire necessary to comfort \*At 10½ A M got board of Sam Gaty, for home—Went first to Keokuk—Called at Jones & O'Bannon's. At 1 P M left there for home, where I arrived at 5—Rev'd. Mr Gale at my house waiting to see me, to induce me to attend Commencement at Knox College.

Sunday June 15 Still cool, but bright Attended Mr McCandlishs Church in morning, and went with Miss Mary Pearson to Mr Emery's at night.

Mr Gale still with us

Quincy

Monday June 16 1856 Court commenced to day—At noon Anti Nebraska meeting to appoint delegates to Congressional Convention assembled. I addressed the meeting for an hour in the afternoon, when we adjourned till night. Upon assembling I again addressed them for two hours. It was then moved by Mr Rice that the delegates to the Convention be instructed to vote for me as the nominee for Congress. The motion was received with strong demonstrations of approval, and I was most earnestly urged to consent to the use of my name, but I peremptorily declined

Quincy

Tuesday June 17, 1856 Attending Court. Pleasant day. Mrs Browning dined at Cox's

Wednesday June 18 Fine day. Attending Court

Thursday June 19 Fine day. Attending Court

Friday June 20 Very warm & very dry Miss Gunning left at 4 this morning for Jacksonville

Heard to day of the nomination of Freemont by the Republican Convention at Philadelphia for President. He was not my



first choice, but I am content. Would have preferred McLean Court adjourned till Court in Course

Quincy

Saturday June 21. 1856 Very warm and dusty. At work in office. In the afternoon little Emma went on the cars with her father & sister to Augusta

Sunday June 22 A very hot day. Attended Church in the morning, but not out again. Stewart & his wife went home with us to dinner.

Monday June 23 Very warm this morning. Immediately after breakfast drove out to Singleton's, and took Mrs Sophy Smith of Springfield out riding. \*Sheldon & his wife & Mrs Smith of Springfield & some others took tea at our house

Quincy  
& Gales-  
burg

Tuesday June 24 1856 Very warm, dry & dusty. At work in office in forenoon. In afternoon took cars for Galesburg to attend Commencement at Knox College, Arrived there between 8 & 9 P. M. and stopped at Mr Gales

Wednesday June 25 Fine shower last night, and still raining a little this morning. Board of trustees in session all day. A vacancy in the board, and great strife between the N S Presbyterians & Congregationalists as to who shall fill it. On my motion Caleb M Pomeroy<sup>1</sup> of Quincy was elected. He is a member of the baptist Church

Gales-  
burg &  
Quincy

Thursday June 26 1856 \*Fine day—Meeting of the board in the morning. At 10 A M Commencement exercises began—Concluded them between 2 & 3 P. M. Very large audience in attendance. Graduated 10 young men, with degree of A. B. & conferred degree of A. M. on 7 Alumni

Meeting of board again in afternoon. At 5 P. M. I took the cars for home—

Very heavy storm of thunder, lightning & rain on our way down, but none at Quincy. Still dry and parched here. Got home at 11 at night

Has been large fire here to day

Quincy

Friday June 27 1856 Very dry & warm. Mrs Smith of Springfield dined with us, and she, & Mrs Holliday & two Miss

<sup>1</sup>Caleb M. Pomroy. Born in Massachusetts; came to Quincy, 1837; engaged in meat packing and banking.

Breden's took tea, after which we all went to Denmans & had some music

\*Saturday June 28 Still hot and dry. At work in office. In afternoon went down to boat to say good bye to Mrs Smith of Springfield, who was starting home in company with Dr Singleton & wife

\*Sunday June 29. Some rain before day, but not much—At church in morning

Monday June 30 Pleasant day. At work in office Mrs Ford dined with us

Quincy Tuesday July 1 1856 Warm, dry day. At work in office

Wednesday July 2 Very warm—Has rained a little to day, but very little At work in office

Thursday July 3. Very warm day—At work in office—Fine rain last night

Friday July 4 Very delightful day indeed—Bright clear sky with delicious breeze from North West. Just warm enough and none too warm Had heavy thunder storm and very fine rain last night. Have spent the day quietly at home

Quincy Saturday July 5 1856 Fine day,—but quite warm—At work in office. \*Mrs Browning & self went to Cox's to tea—Our horse Jake strayed off in the pasture—Couldn't find him, and had to come home at 10 at night with Cox's poney.

Sunday July 6 Very warm day. Attended Church in morning—  
7  
Not out again—Heavy rain just at night

Monday July 7. At 4 this morning left on the cars for Chicago. At Plymouth at 6. Took breakfast at Bell's tavern—hired hack and went to Carthage on business—returned to Plymouth by 4 P. M. and am now ready to take the cars for Chicago. \*At  $\frac{1}{4}$  past five started for Chicago—took supper at Bushnell and traveled all night—The day has been very delightful, and afternoon quite warm—but going North found it necessary to put on my overcoat, and then, with the cars closely shut up suffered very much with cold.

Tuesday July 8 reached Chicago this morning at 5 shivering with cold. Stopped at Briggs House—Dressed myself in winter clothing, and attended Court. Judge McLean here

Chicago Wednesday July 9 1856 Pretty warm day—At work in Court

Thursday July 10 Warm day. At work in Court. After tea called on Arthur Griffith & wife at Tremont House

Friday July 11 Warm day & rained very heavily most of the day At work in Court. In the evening took tea at Mr Arnold's in company with Judge McLean & others

Saturday July 12 Very pleasant day. Trying cases in Court. x x x

Sunday July 13 Warm day—Too late getting ready for Church to go to old school which was some distance off, and went with Roberts to new school—

Chicago Monday July 14 1856 More rain last night, and very warm day. Attending Court. Went to tea with Judge McLean at Tremont, and had a long political talk with him. He is desponding for the future—thinks the experiment of our Government has failed, and that we are rapidly approaching a dissolution of the Union—That this is now the most corrupt government on earth, and that with the immense money patronage of the President it must continue so

Chicago I remarked to him that a new system of dispensing patronage and managing the government was inaugurated with the administration of Genl. Jackson, and that high official station had been cheapening, and coming more and more within the reach of inferior and corrupt men, and the reverence of the people for the laws weakening ever since, and that I thought more of the responsibility of the present deplorable state of things, and of the dangers that threatened us rested upon Mr Van Buren than upon all other men—that whilst Genl. Jackson may have been at heart honest and patriotic, he was but nominally President—an instrument in Mr Van Buren's hands, who governed him through his passions and his prejudices, and made him debase

the offices of the Government by bestowing them upon demagogues in reward of mere partisan services.

He assented to the truth of what I said, and added When Mr Van Buren first came to Washington during the administration of Mr Monroe he (Mr Monroe) said to me "that man has come here to introduce the system of New York politics into National Affairs, and if he succeeds ours will become the most corrupt government on earth". The Judge thinks Fremont a very unfit person to be run for President, and that if elected the Union will not last through his administration

I said in reply grant it—Can we do any better in the present state of things, in as much as he is nominated, than to support him? That in the event of his election I hoped we might be able to collect wise, honest & conservative men around him, and bring the Government back to its original purity; whereas if Buchanan was elected there was no hope, as he was pledged to the policy of Douglass, Pierce & Co, and would be used by the ultra pro slavery men of the South to effectuate all their bad purposes. He answered that he did not *know* that we could do any better, yet he had no hope of good coming from Fremonts' election—that he had no qualifications for the office—that money and corruption had been freely used to procure his nomination, and that he was in the hands of, and would be controlled, by Blair, Greely, Wilson, Thurlow Wead &c all of whom were corrupt. That Buchanan was a man of ability, and considerable statesmanship, but that he was timid—lacked nerve & would probably fall under the influence of the ultra pro slavery men of the South, who were as corrupt as Greely, and far more reckless and daring, and he did not know what we were to do—He had more confidence in Fillmore than either of the others, but there was no chance for his election, and upon a survey of the whole ground he had but little hope for the future of our Country.

The conversation was continued for sometime, but the foregoing is the substance of it

Tuesday July 15 Fine day—Hard at work in Court.



\*Wednesday July 16 Attending Court—warmest day of the season

Thursday July 17 Another very warm day—Attending Court

Chicago \*Friday July 18 When Court adjourned for dinner Judge McLean asked me to go with him to his room—that he would leave at 9 O'clock to night, and would have no other opportunity of conversation. I went—He remarked that he had seen a statement in a Baltimore paper to the effect that he had declared against Freemont, and would support Fillmore for the presidency and that he wished to say to me that it was without authority and without foundation, and that he had said nothing to warrant the inference. That he knew nothing of Mr Freemont except that he was a young man of energy and enterprise, without experience as a statesman, and that he thought him an unfit man for president of this Republic—That money had been freely used, and corruption practised to secure his nomination—that he was in the hands of ultra men of the North, and he feared, if elected, he would constitute his cabinet of such, making the government purely a sectional one; and that if vacancies occurred on the supreme bench he would appoint abolitionists who would refuse to execute the fugitive slave law. That on the other hand Buchanan would appoint nullifiers who would probably be worse. That Fillmore was an exceedingly selfish, and with all a timed man, in whom he had no confidence, and upon the whole he was despondent as to the future

Chicago \*That since he had been upon the bench he had taken no active part in politics, and would not do so now—That his friends were almost universally supporting Freemont, and that he had not taken ground against him, and would not—that he had talked to me more fully and freely upon this subject than he had to any other person, and at any time that I thought proper to do so he authorised me to address a communication to any public paper in, my discretion, contradicting the statement made in the Baltimore paper \*Mrs Browning arrived on the cars at 6 this evening



Saturday July 19 Judge McLean left last night Attending Court before Drummond After tea Mrs B & self took a long ride—Fine day I called at Judge Morris

cago Sunday July 20 1856 Fine day. After breakfast Mrs Judge Morris, & Mrs Everett of Mt Sterling Ky, called in a carriage & Mrs Browning and I went riding with them. Mrs B & I then went to old school Church in South part of Town. In the evening, I took tea at Judge Morris' with Mrs Everett, Mrs Blackburn, Miss Lockhart &c.

Monday July 21 very fine day. At 9 A. M. Mrs B left for home on the cars. I am not yet through with my business, and could not go with her. Attending Court

Tuesday July 22 Fine day. Attending Court

cago Wednesday July 23 1856 Very warm—Attending Court after tea called at John Kinzies<sup>1</sup> & Mr Blackburns

Thursday July 24 Warmest day of the season After tea called at Judge Morris

Friday July 25 Very warm—Am through with my business in Court and will start home to night Called this morning on Mrs O. Kendall, and on Mrs Allen who was formerly Miss Sallie McCaw

At 9 P M took the cars on my way home. Rode all night—Eliphalet Blatchford in company—Cool enough for over coat

ncy Saturday, July 26 1856 Arrived at home in 11 O'clock train, & found all well. Fine day

Sunday July 27 At Church in morning, Not out again. Mrs McCormack & Miss Frances Nelson dined with us—Rain at night—gently most of the night

\*Monday July 28 Warm day, and very fine rain

Tuesday July 29 Very warm day. At work in office

Wednesday July 30 Fine rain last night & this morning, & fine day At work in office

ncy & kuk ~~Wednesday~~ July 31 1856 At 8 O'clock this morning took

Thursday passage on York State for Keokuk where I arrived at 1½ P. M.

<sup>1</sup>John H. Kinzie, 1803-1865; son of the Chicago pioneer.

and stopped at Mr Richards Ward & Mrs Cox, Gilpin, & his wife & niece & Mrs Richardson & daughter came up on same bot—all except the last two named returning on the boat to Warsaw to stay there over night

At gas lighting to night I addressed the people, out of doors, upon political subjects for two hours

Has been a fine day

Keokuk

Friday, August 1 1856<sup>1</sup> A very warm day. At 1½ P. M. Mrs B & Emma came up on the Packet on their way to Burlington. Made no stop, but took hack round the rapids immediately and went on to Burlington same evening.

I remained at Keokuk. Went with Col Perry to dinner, and at night again addressed the people for more than two hours in the open air.

Went home, and staid all night with Col Perry

Burlington

Saturday Augt 2 At 6 this morning left Col Perry's in two horse buggy with driver, for Burlington where I am expected to speak in the afternoon. Between Fort Madison & Augusta was overtaken by a fierce thunder storm, and heavy rain, and got quite wet, in getting out to seek shelter at a Dutchman's. After the storm drove on and reached Burlington at 4½ P. M. Very large crowd assembled in the street at night to hear me speak, but I was so hoarse in consequence of speaking in the open air the two preceding nights, and getting wet to day, that I had to apologize in a whisper, promise to come in September, and decline for the present. Long John Wentworth<sup>2</sup> of Chicago was

<sup>1</sup>The diary from August 1, 1856, to June 30, 1858, is in a volume of 232 pages, 3¾ by 6½ inches, plain blue ruling, bound in black leather, with plain gold diamond design tooled on front and back covers. All but the last six pages are used; one leaf is torn out.

<sup>2</sup>John Wentworth, 1815-1888. Born in New Hampshire; graduate of Dartmouth; came to Chicago as editor of the *Chicago Democrat*; member of 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 33d, 39th congresses; mayor of Chicago, 1857-1860; one of the leaders of the Democratic party and then of the Republican. He obtained his political control of northern Illinois as editor of the *Chicago Democrat* through unscrupulous political maneuvering and a genuine regard for political principle. He was accused as a member of Congress of appropriating considerable quantities of stationery for the use of his paper; he was also one of the strongest opponents in Congress of southern domination. His influence brought the River and Harbor Convention to Chicago in 1847, and materially assisted the growth of the city.

present and took my place, and the speaking continued till after mid night—several stands being occupied. Blackwell was speaking at the Democratic stand in the forepart of the evening advocating Buchanan's claims to the Presidency, and, in low, vulgar terms abusing the Republicans—He made a very poor speech—Twaddle—At 9½ I went up to my brothers and went to bed

Sunday Aug 3 1856 Pleasant day. In forenoon went to 1st old school Presbyterian Church, and at night Mrs B & self went to 2nd old school Presbyterian Church. Late in afternoon from my brothers on the hill, saw the engine house of the Rail Road Company burn on the Illinois shore.

\*Monday Aug 4 At my brothers in Burlington—The election took place in Iowa to day for Congressmen, members of Legislature &c. Democrats were confident of carrying Desmoisine County by 150 to 250, but the Republicans elected their ticket by some where from 50 to 100 majority. The election was an exciting, but peaceful & orderly one

Mrs B & self & some other friends took tea at Coolbaughs—

Tuesday Aug 5 1856 Very warm day. At 2 P M we took the cars for home via Galesburg. Reached home at 11 at night. Just beyond Coatsburg ran over a man who was lying on the track & killed him

Wednesday Aug 6 Fine day—At work in office. Election news coming in well from Iowa. The strong probability is that the Republicans have carried the State by a handsome majority, and elected both members of Congress.

Thursday Aug 7 Fine day—At work in office

Friday August 8 Weather bright, beautiful and mild. At work in office. After tea Mrs B & self rode out to Woods, and took a look at the new house he is erecting It will be a magnificent structure

Saturday Aug 9 1856 Another fine day—At work in office—

This morning had Dallam, who is sick, moved from the Virginia House, where he was very uncomfortable, up to my house

Sunday Augt 10 Fine day—At Church in the morning, and not out again

Monday Augt 11 Very pleasant day—At work in office—Bushnell, Butler, Denman, Erskine & their wives took tea with us—

Tuesday Augt 12 Fine day—At work in office

Wednesday Augt 13 Very pleasant weather. Mornings and evenings quite cool. Mrs Dallam arrived this afternoon, and as her husband is at my house sick she stops there also

Quincy

Thursday Augt 14 1856 Fine day—At work in office The celebrated Ole Bull, Jo. Duncan of Jacksonville and two of his friends, and Mrs Cox & Mr Ward took tea with us.

I went to concert with Mrs B & Mrs Dallam. Patti's singing was good—Ole Bull's performance on the violin was exquisite—superior to any thing I have ever before heard. He is a fine looking, intelligent and very agreeable gentleman, apparently about 40 years of age—

Friday Augt 15 Warm day. At work in office. At night went to party at Cox's. Walked out alone, and rode back with Mose Palmer & wife between 12 & 1 O'clock Lovely moonlight night

Quincy

Saturday Augt 16 Warm day. At work in office

10<sup>i</sup> Sunday, Augt 17 1856 Warm day. Attended Episcopal Church in the morning with Mrs Dallam, and heard an Oxonian preach—Not out again

Monday—Augt 18 Fine rain last night—Warm day—At work in office President Blanchard<sup>2</sup> of Knox College dined with me. At night went to Court House to hear speaking by the Congressional candidates, Morris & Grimshaw. They spoke 1¼ hour each, Morris the democratic candidate making as poor & paltry a speech as I ever heard, and Grimshaw, the Republican candidate a sensible & highly creditable one

<sup>1</sup>The figure is written in pencil, but the diary entry has been spaced in from it.

<sup>2</sup>Jonathan Blanchard, 1811-1892. Born in Vermont; graduate of Middlebury, Andover and Lane; president of Knox College, 1846-1858, and of Wheaton College, 1860-1882; bitterly opposed to slavery and to secret societies.



Tuesday Augt 19 Cool, delightful day. At work in office—Again at night attended speaking at the Court House by Grimshaw & Morris. About as last night

Wednesday Augt 20 1856 Fine day—At work in office. Mr & Mrs Dallam who have been with us for some days, left us to day & went to house keeping

Thursday Augt 21 At work in office—Heard to day by letter from brother Marcus, of the death of Robt Simpson—Mrs Ford took tea with us.

Friday Augt 22 Fine rain last night, and delightful morning. Mrs Cox & Ward breakfasted with us. At work in office

\*Saturday Augt 23 Warm & cloudy—At work in office

Sunday Augt 24 At Mr McCandlish's Church in morning & Mr Kings in evening, where Thompson, African Missionary preached—Called at Dallam's after tea— x x

Monday Augt 25, 1856 Cool, pleasant weather—In the forenoon Mrs B & self drove out to Mrs Blatchford's to call on Mrs Gale, but saw none of them—Called at Mr Collins on our way back to see Ellen, but she was not in —

Tuesday Augt 26 Very cool, but bright day—At work in office—At night went with Mrs B & Miss Pearson to Mr Kings Church and heard lecture by Mr Thompson, on Liberia. He had visited the Colony and gave a very flattering account of it. x x x

Wednesday Augt 27 Fine day—At work in office—Orville O'Bannon dined with us, and after dinner went to Augusta

At night I went to Church and heard Dr Mack preach x x x

Thursday Augt 28 1856 Warm day—At work in office—Mrs B & I were at Asbury's to tea.

Fine rain from sun down till after night—Returned home at 9.

Friday Augt 29 Fine day—At work in office—Morrison quit the Republican to day. Dallam at my house at night to see about new arrangements

\*Saturday Augt 30 Very fine day—Went in company with Sullivan to Ursa. Dined at McClyments, and after dinner ad-



Quincy dressed a large meeting of the People for 2½ hours on politics, in favour of Fremont &c Had a most attentive & highly gratified audience W. H. Carlin followed me in reply, in a very paltry speech about federalists and abolitionists. He soon succeeded in emptying the house

After the speaking was over Sullivan and I returned home—Indeed we left before Carlin was through at 6 O'clock and got home at 8—

Quincy Sunday Augt 31 Fine day—Attended Church in morning, and in the evening went with Miss Gunning & Mr & Mrs Dallam to Mr Emery's Church, and heard him preach

Sept 1 1856 Monday Fine day—At work in office

Tuesday Sept 2 Fine day—At work in office. Dr Fletcher of Ky and his niece from Michigan dined with us—She will remain some days

Wednesday Sept 3 Fine day—At work in office. Mrs Genl Leech dined with us. At night heard Jim Irvine & Danenhower<sup>1</sup> make Filmore speeches in the public square. They were rather poor affairs—

Thursday Sept 4 Fine rain this morning before day, and till 7 O'clock Quite warm x x x

At 2 P M took passage on the Steamer Sam Gaty for St. Louis—Going chiefly for the recreation, having no particular business to call me there.

\*St. Louis Friday Sept 5 1856 Reached St. Louis this morning at 7 O'clock, and stopped at Planters House—Dined at Mrs Barrets, and in afternoon rode out with Richard to the fair grounds—the preparation of which, he, as President of the Agricultural Society is superintending. The accomodations are better and more extensive than any I ever saw. The Amphitheatre will shelter 25 or 30000 persons, and comfortably seat at least 10 or 12000—Tis 250 ft in diameter inside, with 14 tiers of seats—The grounds embrace about 48 acres—

Took tea at Mrs Barrets & went to the Theatre with Mrs Kennedy to hear Miss Heron, who appeared in the Italian wife,

<sup>1</sup>William W. Danenhower, a Chicago bookseller and Native American editor.

and Peg Woffington. The last was very good. The first I did not much like—Got home to my room at 12 O'clock

Louis Saturday Sept 6 1856 Warm day. some rain About 10 A M

At 12 O'clock took passage on board Steamer Keokuk for home. W H Ralston & family on board, who, with many others, have, in the last few days been driven by the border ruffians from Leavenworth City K. T. where they had settled and were residing. He has always been a democrat, and went to the Territory much opposed to the free State party, but returns cured of his folly. He says human language cannot give utterance to the outrages which have been perpetrated there against the settlers, and all by bands of marauders & robbers from the slave states. The people of Leavenworth, had quietly pursued their business and refused to take any part in the troubles which were distracting

the territory, but this did<sup>†not</sup> exempt them from sharing the wrongs which have been visited upon all the free State settlers in that unhappy land. A few days ago the place was invaded by a military force professing to act by authority of the general government, and the alternative presented to the citizens of taking up arms and marching with the ruffians to drive out free State men—of leaving the territory, or of being shot. He saw some shot in the streets for no other reason than that they were opposed to slavery—He and his wife & children, one of which is an infant, only a few weeks old, were compelled to flee, leaving behind them all their property of every kind, including most of their wearing apparel. He says all the free state people will be driven out except such as have concentrated at Lawrence with the determination of dying in defence of their rights.

\*Sunday Sept 7. Reached home at 11 A M & found all well. At 2 P M went to Church with Mrs B, and at night to Mr King's Church with Miss Pearson & Mr & Mrs Dallam x x

Monday Sept 8 Very warm day—At work in office. Mrs B and I went out to Bulls to tea where there was a small party of friends Returned between 10 & 11 O'clock at night

Tuesday Sept 9 1856 Very warm. At work in office. At noon Delano left for Hancock to be absent a week or so At

night a Republican meeting was held at the Court House to nominate a candidate for the Legislature, Powers who was heretofore nominated having declined to run. John Tillson was nominated in his place. I addressed the meeting for an hour & a half

Wednesday Sept 10 Republican convention held here to day to nominate a candidate for Congress to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Richardson Sharp of Warsaw received the nomination Wilcox of Schuyler, Dr Judd of Hancock & Dr Seeley of Pike dined with me—Rain in afternoon Very warm day

Quincy

Thursday Sept 11 1856 Delightful day. Democrats have had a Mass meeting—For many weeks it has been heralded forth that Cass,<sup>1</sup> Douglass, Jno Van Buren,<sup>2</sup> Gov Wise<sup>3</sup> and others were to be here. None of them made their appearance. The meeting may be regarded as a failure. The procession consisted of 25 wheeled vehicles, some of which were one horse buggys, & of 24 persons on horse back, some of whom were boys—The entire assemblage numbered only some few hundreds, who were addressed by Richardson, Jim Green, McClernand, and some yet smaller fry At night Dallam & I went to the Square, and listened for a short time to a very vulgar speech from Jake Davis, the democratic candidate for Congress for the vacancy— x x x

Quincy

Friday Sept 12 1856 Lovely day. Mass Republican meeting at Galesburg to day, which I had engaged to attend, but could not go Dallam & his wife and Bushnell took tea with us. After tea I called on Miss Gunning x x

Saturday Sept 13. Most lovely day—At work in office in forenoon x x x Went out on the afternoon train to Coats-

<sup>1</sup>Lewis Cass, 1782-1866. Governor of Michigan Territory, 1813-1831; secretary of war, 1831-1836; minister to France, 1836-1842; senator from Michigan, 1845-1848, 1849-1857; secretary of state, 1857-1860; Democratic candidate for president, 1848.

<sup>2</sup>Probably "Prince John" Van Buren, 1810-1866, son of Martin Van Buren. Served as attorney general of New York, 1845-1846; aid to General Taylor in the Mexican War; had a reputation as an effective political speaker.

<sup>3</sup>Henry A. Wise, 1806-1876. Elected to 23d to 28th congresses; minister to Brazil, 1844-1847; governor of Virginia, 1856-1860.

burg in Company with Jno: Tillson, Tom Durant, Sullivan and my boy William, and addressed a good assemblage of people on political subjects. Spoke in the freight house from 4 to 6 P. M. and came back home on the 11 O'clock train. Had a good attendance and hope for good fruits from my visit

in company Sunday Sept 14 1856 Beautiful, but very warm day. In the morning attended Mr King's Church, and heard Mr Jaques a methodist Minister—At 2 P. M. heard Mr Emery at Westminster Church, and at night in company with Mrs B & Miss Pearson heard him again at his own Church.

Monday Sept 15 Delightful, but very warm day. At work in office

Wrote to Mrs Mary Thornton & directed to Independence. In the evening Mrs B & self called on Mrs Baldwin of Keokuk at Bulls

Tuesday Sept 16 Very warm, bright day. In forenoon attended the funeral of Miss Lucy Wells who died on Sunday. Attended an education meeting at Savages office at night

in company Wednesday Sept 17 1856 Beautiful, but very warm day. At work in office At night went with Mrs Dallam to Episcopal Church to witness the marriage of Mr Ladue of St Louis with Miss Woodward. Just after the ceremony was over there came up a storm of thunder, lightning, wind & rain, and I had to take Mrs Dallam home in a carriage. x x x x x

Returned and went with Mrs Browning to the wedding party at Mr Williams, where we remained till between 1 & 2 O'clock in the morning—Pleasant party.

Delano returned from Hancock to day where he has been for a week past, and brought his sister with him, on a visit to us—

in company Thursday Sept 18 1856 Bright morning after the storm of last night, but cool enough to make fire comfortable. Mrs Henry Bull, & mother, Mrs Baldwin of Keokuk, & some other friends took tea with us. x x x

Friday Sept 19 Very cool, but bright At work in office

Saturday Sept 20 Coldest morning of the season and quite cold day—Fire necessary. Miss Delano left to day At work in office. x x x



Sunday Sept 21 Cold day. At Mr McCandlishs Church in morning. At Mr Emerys at night with Miss Gunning, Miss Murdock & Miss Dow

Jack Grimshaw took dinner and tea with us.

Quincy

Monday Sept 22 1856 Quite heavy frost this morning—Very cold for the season. Fire & overcoats necessary Delano went to Pittsfield to take depositions At work in office

\*Tuesday Sept 23 Another very cold day—At work in office. At night heard Mr Marks lecture at the City Hall, giving some account of his trip up the Dardenelles and visit to Constantinople. Not a lecture of much scope or profundity, but nevertheless quite interesting x x x

Quincy &  
Clayton

Wednesday Sept 24 Weather still quite cool, but bright and beautiful. Went with Jonas to Columbus where, after dinner, I addressed the people for 2½ hours on the pending Presidential election. Had a good meeting—Church crowded—Ladies in attendance. We then drove on to Clayton where we arrived just a night; and addressed a large meeting of the people at Cones Hall for 2½ hours. Ladies were in attendance here also, and much enthusiasm prevailing among the Republicans

Thursday Sept 25 After breakfast Rev Mr Millen brought me in his carriage to Camp Point where I took the cars & reached home at 10½ O'clock A. M. Warm afternoon

Friday Sept 26 Fine day. At work in the office

Saturday Sept 27 Very warm & dusty. At work in office

Have had no rain for some time past—Streets are very dusty, and the River lower I believe than I have ever known it

Quincy &  
Carthage

Sunday Sept 28 1856 Quite a cool day. Attended McCandlish's Church in the morning. At night went to Mr Kings Church with Mrs Dallam, Mr Dallam & Miss Pearson

Monday Sept 29 Before day this morning started for Carthage to attend Chancery Term of Court. Came on the cars to Plymouth—Breakfasted at Bells tavern, and got Moore to bring Wheat Peterson & myself to Carthage where we arrived about 11. I stopped at Artois Hamiltons where I now am. Attended Court in the afternoon. This has been a cold, cloudy gloomy



day. Fires and overcoats necessary. Drizzling rain in the afternoon and at night No one here from Quincy except Wheat & myself—Williams expected to come this morning, but for some reason did not.

Carthage

Tuesday Sept 30 1856 Cold, gloomy day. None of the contested Chancery cases were ready for hearing, and soon after dinner the Court adjourned for the term. Wheat & I got John Hamilton to take us to Keokuk, where we arrived about sun down. Stopped at St Charles Hotel, and after supper went to the Theatre, and saw the Drunkard played by Alf Burnett & others—Not well performed—

\*Wednesday Oct 1 This morning at 7 O'clock took passage on Steamer York State & reached home at 12 O'clock. In afternoon was taken with dysentery—and compelled to leave the office, and go home and take medicine. The day has been brighter and pleasanter than for sometime past

Quincy

Thursday Oct 2 1856 At home all day, confined to my room  
~~Wednes~~  
 quite unwell and taking medicine New School Presbyterian Synod in session here. Mr Stephenson and his two daughters from Jacksonville, who are attending Synod, are staying with us. x x

\*Friday October 3 Still confined to my room with dysentery —Weather very warm

Saturday Oct 4 Continues very warm. Keeping my room under the influence of medicine

\*Sunday Oct 5 Warm, fine day—At home all day, not yet being able to get out

Was not at church, either morning or evening

Quincy

Monday Oct 6 1856 Another fine warm day. Mr Stephenson & daughters of Jacksonville, who have been staying with us a few days, left this morning. Court commences in Hancock to day, but I will not go up till tomorrow, being feeble from my attack of sickness, and afraid of the fatigue of the journey

Tuesday Oct 7. Warm as July. At 5½ this morning took the cars for Plymouth on my way to Carthage. Breakfasted at

Bell's, at Plymouth, and came on to Carthage in Moores hack, in company with Jason H Sherman & wife, and John Williams—Arrived here at 10½ A M, and stopped at Artois Hamiltons

**Carthage** Wednesday Oct 8 1856 Warm and dry—Attending Court—  
Thursday Oct 9 Warm as summer—Attending Court

Friday Oct 10 Continues very warm, but towards night clouded up, threatened rain & became something cooler  
Attending Court

Heard this morning of the death of Dr Jno: F Charles who on yesterday I examined as a witness on the trial of a case in which the jury is still out, not yet having returned a verdict. The Dr resided at Warsaw and started home in the afternoon—Six or seven miles out from here he was suddenly attacked, and died at 2 A M this morning—Supposed to be apoplexy

**Carthage & Quincy** Saturday Oct 11 1856 Misting rain through the forenoon—  
Still very warm

Started home after dinner Jason Sherman & myself got Harnest of Carthage to take us to Plymouth, where we arrived about 5 O'clock—I took supper at Sam Tibbetts, and at 9 O'clock took the cars for Quincy, where I arrived between 10 & 11 at night

Sunday Oct 12 At home—Warm & cloudy Attending Church in the morning, but not out again during the day.

Monday Oct 13 At 5 this morning started on the cars for Plymouth Reached there before 7—breakfasted at Bells, and came on to Carthage in Moores hack in company with Buckley, Ed: Savage & Warren & stopped at Artoise Hamiltons at 10½ A M

**Carthage** Tuesday October 14 1856 Attending Court. Yesterday was  
much colder than it had been for sometime past. Fires became necessary. The cold increased at night, and to day it is almost wintry

Wednesday Oct 15 Heavy frost & bright, cold day—Attending Court

Thursday Oct 16 Very heavy frost but the day something milder than yesterday—Attending Court

\*Friday Oct 17 Fine day—After dinner started home—Wheat & myself & Gordon came in Harnest's hack to Plymouth I took tea at Sam Tibbetts—and at 9 took the cars for home where I arrived about 10½

Methodist conference in session in Quincy—Found at my house Rev Dr Finley, Rev Mr French of Ohio—Rev Mr Barrett & a Mr Johnson & son—

Quincy Saturday Oct 18 1856 At home at work in office—Rev Mr Lemon of Pittsburg came to day & Rev Mr Barrett left—

Sunday Oct 19 Fine warm day. In the forenoon heard Bishop Simpson of the Methodist Church preach at City Hall A man of considerable power and eloquence At night went to 5<sup>th</sup> street Methodist Church & heard Mr French

Monday Oct 20 Raining this morning, Court is to commence to day The Democrats & Filmore men both held what they call mass meetings here to day—Douglass held forth at the market house. I have been busy in the office & have not heard any of them—Have had a fine rain—Court opened late in afternoon but did nothing

Quincy Tuesday Oct 21 1856 Bright & very warm day Attending Court—Mr Johnson & his son & Rev Mr French, Lemon & Barret left to day—\*Made speech at the Hall at night

Wednesday Oct 22 Bright, warm day. Mr French did not get off yesterday, but left this morning, & Barrett returned Attending Court x x x

Thursday Oct 23 Fine morning, and warm, but cloudy & threatening At 10½ A M commenced raining, and fell in torrents all day, and all night

Republican Mass meeting to day, and a most successful one, notwithstanding the rain

Quincy I was President of the day. In the forenoon the crowd assembled in the Square where the order of proceeding for the day was announced, when we adjourned for dinner. Hon Jno:

P Hale<sup>1</sup> Dick Yates,<sup>2</sup> and a great multitude of people took dinner at my house After dinner reassembled at the Square—A banner was presented to the Pike County delegation & another to the Camp point delegation Then repaired to the Hall & Court house. At the Hall the immense throng was addressed by Hale & Trumbull<sup>3</sup>—Hale's was the finest political speech I ever heard—powerfully eloquent. At the Court House the speeches were by Lovejoy & Yates

Hale Yates & others took tea with me. At night Genl Nye and old Tom Brockman addressed the people at the Hall, and Grimshaw & Sharpe at the Court House. Continued to storm all night—rain fell fast & wind blew hard

Quincy

Friday Oct 24 1856 The rain is over, and it is much cooler than it was. Barrett & Dr Finley left us to day Attending Court

Saturday Oct 25 Bright sunny day, but windy & somewhat cool Attending Court x x x x x

\*Sunday Oct 26 At Church in morning—Mrs Dallam returned with us to dinner. In the evening Emma & I drove out to Cox's—Brot Mrs Gilpin in with us—Warm cloudy day, & rained a little at night

Monday Oct 27 Fine day Attending Court Mrs Senator Trumbull, the Woods, Tillsons, Churches &c took tea with us

Quincy

Tuesday Oct 28 1856 Fine day—Attending Court x x x

Wednesday Oct 29 Attending Court—Warm in the forenoon—Rained a little & turned cold towards night. Mrs Abbott

<sup>1</sup>John P. Hale, 1806-1873. Elected to 28th Congress; United States senator from New Hampshire, 1847-1853, 1855-1865; one of the original antislavery men in politics.

<sup>2</sup>Richard Yates, 1818-1873. Born in Kentucky; graduated from Illinois College, 1835; elected to 32d and 33d congresses; elected governor, 1860; United States senator, 1865-1871; first a Whig, then a Republican.

<sup>3</sup>Lyman Trumbull, 1813-1896. Born in Connecticut; came to Illinois in 1837; served as secretary of state, 1841-1843; an extreme anti-bank Democrat, he opposed the policy of Governor Ford, 1844-1845, and was decisively worsted; Supreme Court justice, 1848-1853; elected to Congress as an Anti-Nebraska Democrat, 1854; elected senator in 1855 and reelected 1861, 1867; Liberal Republican in 1872; Democratic candidate for governor, 1880.

of Keokuk came to our house this evening to be present to-morrow as a witness in the case of *The People vs Miss Mary B Pearson* for larceny—

Thursday Oct 30 Commenced Miss Pearson's trial this

29

morning—Warren & Edmunds prosecuting, & Williams Buckley & myself defending On behalf of the prosecution Mrs Cyrus I Miller, Miss Lydia Kendall, Cyrus I Miller & M B Barr were examined. On cross examination they were overwhelmed with shame and confusion. The evidence instead of making a case, tended to establish a conspiracy against the Defendant, and swept away every ground of suspicion against her.

Friday October 31 1856 At the opening of Court this morning we were prepared to introduce Defendants witnesses in the case vs Miss Pearson, but the prosecution was abandoned and the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty without leaving the box.

Heavy frost last night—The coldest of the season, but the day is bright, beautiful & pleasant

\*Saturday Nov 1 Attending Court & working in office

Sunday Nov 2 Attended Church in the morning, but not out again. Mrs Dallam & Miss Alice Asbury were with us at Church

Mr Williams came in in the evening and took tea with us—

Commenced raining before night and continued to fall heavily till late in the night x x x

Monday Nov 3 1856 Very cloudy & misting rain—Rain fell all day, and at night snowed heavily. Large Republican meeting at the Hall at night. Addressed by myself & others, after which a very fine torch-light procession was formed, and notwithstanding the snow and mud marched, with beautiful effect through the principal streets

L L L

Tuesday Nov 4 Election day—Snow on the ground & very sloppy and disagreeable—quite cold with all—Mrs Browning expected to start to Ky to day, but last evening, our dear little Emma was taken with sore throat, and had a raging fever all night This morning Dr Rittler was to see her, and we entertain



hopes that she may be well by tomorrow—Called this morning to see Mrs & Miss Duncan who arrived last night, and are at John Tillsons

\*Quincy Wednesday Nov 5 1856 A cold day, but some warmer than yesterday

Court resumed again this afternoon, having adjourned on Saturday last till after the election

\*Thursday Nov 6 Attending Court—Snowed, turned cold & froze very hard.

Friday Nov 7 Attending Court—Continues cold. Snow probably an inch or more deep, & glazed over with ice.

Saturday Nov 8 Attending Court—Cold snow crisp under foot in the morning but thawed some during the day.

Mrs Browning, Miss Pearson & myself went to John Tillson's to tea to meet Mrs & Miss Duncan & some other friends—quite a party—I walked out & back

Quincy Sunday—Nov 9 1856 Bright day & thawing rapidly. At Church in the morning. Mrs & Miss Duncan at my house to dinner x x

Monday Nov 10 Fine day—At work in Court  
office

Tuesday Nov 11 Bright warm day—At 2 P M to day Mrs Browning and my dear little Emma, and Miss Alice Asbury left on Steamer Keokuk for Ky—Esqr Asbury goes with them—Mrs Duncan & Miss Julia Duncan also left on their way home at Jacksonville Miss Mary Pearson who has been with us since May, also left for St Louis

I take my meals at the Quincy House, but occupy a room here at home, alone and very lonely. The resounding of my footsteps falls sadly on my ear as I move about the house

\*Quincy Wednesday Nov 12 Heavy fog this morning & very damp and chilly, but the afternoon was bright & warm, and the night is very beautiful—clear & pouring down a flood of moonlight. Adjourned Court to day—Peter & Helena came here to day to remain till Mrs Brownings return.

Thursday Nov 13 Very beautiful day—Bright & warm—At work in office x x x x x x x x x

\*Friday Nov 14 Fine day—At work in office part of the time, and in garden part of the time setting out dwarf pear trees. The night was a very lovely one, and the Republicans went en masse, in torch light procession to Jno Woods<sup>1</sup> to greet him on his election. I walked out alone & returned about 11—A very happy throng were present—half past 11 Mrs Cox & Jno Morton came & got Jake & the buggy to take her home

Saturday Nov 15 1856 Another fine day. I have been occupied at home setting out & mulching dwarf fruit trees, gooseberries, currants, hyacinths, crocus' &c. Dallam & his wife came in at night, and sat half an hour

Sunday Nov 16 Cold & cloudy, having the appearance of coming snow. At church in the morning & heard Mr Monfort of Macomb preach. In the afternoon wrote to my wife

Monday Nov 17 Cloudy, cold day, but became milder & cleared off in the evening, and it is now a beautiful night—Have been at work in the office. At night called on George Phelps & his wife.

Tuesday Nov 18 1856 Very bright, pretty day At work in office. At night attended party at Mr Collins Walked out, and came back in carriage with Miss Dow & Mr Hill

Wednesday Nov 19 Cloudy disagreeable day, with wind in the South At work in office Took tea at Dallams Raining a little when I returned at 7 O'clock x x

\*Thursday Nov 20 Has rained pretty steadily through the day with very little intermission. Asbury got home from Ky last night & brot me a letter from Mrs B which he delvd this morning—I also wrote to her \*Being thanksgiving I went with Asbury to dinner—Walked back to Town in the afternoon and called at Gilpins—Have been in the office but little to day.

Friday Nov 21 1856 Has rained with scarcely any intermission all day. Availed myself of the occasion & had the chim-

<sup>1</sup>John Wood had been elected lieutenant governor on the Republican ticket.

neys burnt out in the dining room & Mrs Brownings room. Have done but little in the office to day—wrote to Mrs Browning

Saturday Nov 22 A very bright, pretty morning, and mild. At work in office. Dr Letcher of Richmond called to day

I had promised to go to night with some company to Cox's. After supper got a four horse omnibus of Pinkham and called for Mrs Bushnell, who declined going—Called at Gilpins—The night was very dark, and the roads very muddy and they declined, so I spent the evening there—Played whist and Eucre.

Quincy

Sunday Nov 23 1856 Quite warm in the forenoon, but clouded up & became a little cooler towards night Went to Church with Miss Julia Gilpin in the morning, and wrote to Mrs Browning in the after noon—In my room at night reading

Monday Nov 24 Cloudy & threatening rain, but not cold—At work in office

Tuesday Nov 25 Warm, cloudy day occasionally misting—At work in office—Went to James Woodruffs to tea. After tea walked with Mrs Woodruff to Quincy House where I left her & returned home

The Democrats are having an illumination &c to night in honor of Buchanan's election. A poor affair—The lights burn as if they felt the crushing effect of the defeat in this state<sup>1</sup>

Quincy

Wednesday Nov 26 1856 At work in office—Received a letter from Mr Browning to day.

Took tea at Dallam's, then returned to my room & spent the evening alone x x x x x x x x

Thursday Nov 27. Very pretty mild day. At work in office—Wrote to Mrs Browning & Emma

Friday Nov 28 Cloudy & drizzling rain all day—At work in office Took tea & spent the evening at Henry Bulls.

Saturday Nov 29 At work in office. Afternoon very bright & pretty. Spent the evening at Bushnells.

Sunday Nov 30 Bright, sunny morning. At church in forenoon. Went at night to Mr Kings church with Mrs Dallam, and

<sup>1</sup>The whole Republican state ticket was elected. In no state-wide election in thirty years had the Democrats been defeated.

heard him redeliver his thanksgiving sermon—Tolerable Wrote to my wife x x x

incy

Monday December 1 1856 At work in office—Warm day & cloudy—About 4 P M commenced raining, and is still at it at 7, with wind from the East. Sidell communicated to me a little affair of his of a rather delicate nature and asked my advice

Tuesday Decr 2 At work in office—After night called on Miss Gunning, Miss Dow & Mrs Phelps Rained all last night and has rained all day, but now at 9 Oclock has turned cold and is freezing

Wednesday

~~Thursday~~ Decr 3 Every thing frozen tight this morning. A cold winter day. The sun broke out in the afternoon, and now at night tis fair and something milder

incy

Thursday Decr 4 1856 Cold day—At work in office—Wrote to Mrs Browning—

Spent part of the evening at Henry Bulls

Friday Decr 5 Very cold—Ice running thick in the river & boats do not go above here—At work in the office Just before night walked out to Coxs to supper Clear, frosty, moonlight night—Walked home between 11 & 12 with Mr & Mrs Gilpin and Mrs Hollowbush—Water froze hard in my room at night

Saturday Decr 6 An immense frost this morning and very cold—A boat or two here, but the river is full of ice, and I think, navigation about over—At work in office

incy

Sunday Decr 7 1856 Cold day, but moderated some towards night At Church in the morning—In afternoon wrote to Mrs B—At night went to Mr Kings Church—

Monday Decr 8 Bright, pretty day, and much milder At work in office

Tuesday Decr 9 Mild pleasant day—At work in office—Wrote to Mrs Browning—Walked out to Coxs to supper—Bushnell's, Bulls &c. came out after tea—had an oyster supper, and did not get home till midnight Foolishly drank coffee & could not sleep.

Wednesday Decr 10 Commenced raining at midnight last night & has continued without a moments intermission, and is still falling now at 9 Oclock at night Went to Dallams to supper x

Quincy

Thursday Decr 11 1856 About an inch or such a matter of snow this morning, but a bright, mild day, and thawing rapidly Dined at Henry Bulls with some friends—took tea at Jonas' and then made a call at Mr Palmers

Friday Decr 12 Very beautiful day—bright & mild as Spring. At 10 A M attended funeral of Miss Marcella King, who died day before yesterday Dined at S P Church's with Mr Sidell—Spent the evening at Gilpins with Mrs Cox

Saturday Decr 13 Sleeting this morning, A very dark, dismal day—Turned to rain and continued fall with very little intermission all day, and now at night is very foggy and drizzling —Two boats up last night

Quincy

Sunday Decr 14 1856 Turned cold in the night, and hard frozen this morning. Bright, pretty day, but cold with the wind from N. W. At church in the morning, & in the evening at Mr Kings Church

\*Monday Decr 15 Fine winter day. Took passage on the 4 P. M. train for Chicago, on my way to Ky, where Mrs B. and Emma have been for a month past—Traveled all night x x x  
x x x x x x

Tuesday Decr 16 Arrived at Chicago about sunrise—Went to Brigg's House to breakfast—Left my trunk of papers there, and at 10 A. M. started on Michigan Central for Cincinnati. At Michigan City changed cars—Arrived at Lafayette, Ia: just after night, and about 10 minutes after the train for Indianapolis had left. Stayed all night at the house at the depot Cold night

On the  
Road

Wednesday Decr 17 1856 Left Lafayette about 6 A. M. passed through Indianapolis and arrived at Cincinnati 1½ P. M. Hired an express wagon to drive me rapidly to the Covington depot, on the other side of the River, and reached there just in time to get aboard before the cars left—Reached Lexington at 7 P. M. and stopped at Brother Marcus'—Pleasant winter day. Fine sleighing in Chicago when I left there, and snow all through



Indiana but none in Ky. From Michigan City to Lawrenceville, on the Ohio a very flat, and not very fertile country—Chiefly beach flats—Met in the cars from Covington to Falmouth, Miss Robbins & Mr Hunser—children of lang syne friends in Falmouth where I resided in my childhood, but where I have not been for many years

Lexington  
Winchester

Thursday Decr 18 1856 At 1½ P. M. took the stage for Winchester, where Mrs B and Emma are—Arrived at 5—found all well, and went to Tom Moores to tea, with some friends—viz Tom Moores Mother & sisters & brother, Mrs Shelton Moore, Miss Raymond, Mrs & Miss Simpson, &c. Met Aunt Hart, and Aunt Kitty on the way between Lexington & Winchester

Friday Decr 19 At Judge Simpsons in Winchester—A warm & rather windy day. Kept in the house all day—not out at all

Winchester

Saturday Decr 20 Rained most of the night last night, and turned to snow this morning Snowed very heavily in the forenoon, melting in part, as it fell, but turned cold, and froze up before night. I was not out during the forenoon, but after dinner called at Mr Hansons, and spent an hour with him, & Misses Sarah & Kate. He is suffering dreadfully with gout in his eye—Cant swallow, and can talk very little on account of the pain which the effort causes his eye—Then called at clerks office—saw Aylette & Dr Tom Buckner, who I had not met for some years—After supper went with Mrs Simpson to Mr Robt Winns to see Mrs Brassfield & Mrs Winn

Sunday Decr 21 Very cold day. Attended Church in the morning with Mrs & Miss Simpson & heard Rev Mr Scott preach—Mrs Capt Allen, Mrs Dr Allen & Mrs Wm: Sympson called in afternoon

Winchester &  
Lexington

Monday Decr 22 1856 Very cold day—. At 10 A. M. took the stage for Lexington Full of passengers inside and a handcuffed negro freezing on the outside who was finally crammed into the boot, and deposited, on our arrival in a negro jail at Lexington, to await I suppose, a purchaser from the South—We dined at Brother Marcus' in Lexington, and he then sent us out in his carriage to sister Talithas.

Tuesday Decr 23 The coldest day of the season—Went to Town—dined at brother Marcus' wrote to James Caldwell & Alice Asbury, and then returned to Mrs O'Bannon's

Lexing-  
ton

Wednesday Decr 24 Much milder than yesterday After dinner went into brother Marcus—Called at Breckenridge's office and wrote some letters home. Mrs Simpson, Caro & Jimmy came down to day, and staid all night at brother Marcus—Eliza and I were out in the afternoon making purchases of Christmast presents for the children of our friends

Thursday Decr 25 Bright, beautiful day—Joy in the household this morning, Santa Claus having made a visit, and a liberal distribution of presents. Mrs B & Miss Caro Simpson got beautiful port monies Mrs Browning, Mrs Simpson & myself went to John Harts to dinner—Had a very pleasant day, and sumptuous dinner. Aunt Hart, Nat Hart, Mr Alford & wife, Mr Campbell & Mr Farra were of the party. Miss Lucy Hart was the only young lady present,—Cousin Mary being at Richmond We went to Nat Harts and staid all night

Lexing-  
ton

Friday Decr 26 1856 We had engaged to dine at Nat Harts, but this morning it was raining & sleeting, and immediately after breakfast we returned to Town—The roads were a glare of ice—We drove into Lexington, and on to Mrs O'Bannon's to dinner A very gloomy day—but not cold, although sleeting—

Saturday Decr 27 Rained last night, and raining this morning, and quite warm Judge Simpson came out to breakfast. We had engaged to dine at Capt Shelton Moores, and at half past 10, Judge Simpson & sister Mary started home, and Mrs Browning, Eliza & Sally O'Bannon, Alice Asbury, & Misses Lucinda & Laura Helm (who are spending Christmast at Mrs O'Bannon's) started to Capt Moores, where we arrived at 12

Lexing-  
ton

Mr & Mrs Wasson, Mr Stamps and about half a dozen Moores were of the party—Had very fine dinner & pleasant day. Returned to Mrs O'Bannons where we arrived just after night. The day has been warm, quite foggy, and occasionally misting

Sunday Decr 28 Bright, beautiful morning, mild as spring—Spent the day at Mrs OBannons not going out at all

Monday Decr 29 Took leave of them all at Mrs O'Bannons and came in to brother Marcus' to dinner—Edwin Hickman dined with us. After dinner rode out with brother M. to his farm, and thence to the cemetery, and visited the grave of my venerated Mother, and of the great and immortal statesman Henry Clay—

Fine day

exing-  
n

Tuesday Decr 30 1856 A very lovely day. At brother Marcus. After dinner went with Emma & Alice Asbury to Ashland—Miss Ann O'Bannon, Miss Laura Helm & Rich<sup>d</sup> Prewit dined with us—Eliza O'B & Lucinda Helm went down to Jessamine in the Stage We are all packed, ready to start home in the morning

Wednesday Decr 31 At 6 this morning took the cars for Cincinnati on our way home—Reached Covington about 11. Crossed over to the depot on the Cincinnati side, and between 2 & 3 P. M. started for Indianapolis where we arrived at 9 at night, and stopped at Bates House The morning was bright, but snow commenced falling at Cincinnati, and followed us nearly to Indianapolis Mr & Mrs Ware on cars from Cynthiana to Cincinnati

1857

Indian-  
apolis &  
Chicago

Thursday, January 1 1857 Bright, beautiful morning—

6

Cousin Edmund Browning<sup>1</sup> & wife, Robt L & Thomas his sons, and Robert, son of Woodville Browning called to see us, and urged us very earnestly to remain with them till tomorrow, but our baggage had gone on, and we thought it better to Continue our journey—At 12 O'clock we started for Chicago, and arrived there at 10 at night, and stopped at Briggs House—Day was bright and mild—

Friday Jany 2—At 10½ this morning took the cars for Quincy—Snowing in forenoon—Turned very cold in the afternoon—Reached home in safety at midnight—Left Mrs B, Alice & Emma at Quincy House till I went home, & had fires made—All then came home, and got to bed about 3 o'clock in the morning

Quincy

Saturday Jany 3 1857. At home—Beautiful day—Friends calling &c

Sunday Jany 4 Fine winter day—Quite cold, but dry—Attended church in the morning & afternoon—Afternoon heard Dr Baird of New York preach

Monday Jany 5 Cold, dry, cloudy, calm morning. \*At 3½ P. M. took the cars for Chicago, where I am going to attend the Circuit & District Courts of the U. S.

Tuesday Jany 6 Arrived in Chicago this morning at 6 O'clock, and took lodging at the Briggs House \*Did but little business to day—being weary and drowsy from having traveled all night Cold day

<sup>1</sup>This was Edmund Browning, 1794-1877, who had married a Frances Gordon of Cincinnati. He kept a hotel at Indianapolis. The sons mentioned are Robert C. and George Thomas Browning, born in 1817 and 1820 respectively, among nine children. Woodville Browning, 1798-1879, was the brother of Edmund. He had married Julia Ann Strickland, and was in the dry goods business in Indianapolis. Robert was his eldest son, born in 1827. Orville, Woodville, and Edmund Browning had a common great-grandfather.

Chicago

Wednesday Jan'y 7 1857 Very cold day. Attending Court. At night went to Metropolitan Hall and heard Mrs Fanny Kemble Butler<sup>1</sup> read "Mid Summer Nights dream"

She is evidently a woman of fine talents—has studied the play well—has a full and just perception of its beauties, and rendered it with very fine effect. In Helena she was particularly happy and effective

Thursday Jan'y 8 Bright day, and not so cold as yesterday—Attending Court

\*Friday Jan'y 9 Attending Court. At night went to Metropolitan Hall & heard Fanny Kemble read the "Tempest". Not so well done as the other. In drunken Trinculo & Stephano she was capital—better than in any other character

Chicago

Saturday, Jan'y 10 1857 Attending Court—Snowed last night, and snowing most of the day. The sleighing is fine. At night went to Metropolitan Hall, and heard a very neat lecture from George Davis on music, and some most excellent songs—He is a very fine vocalist—One of the best I ever heard

\*Sunday Jan'y 11 Still snowing—Attended Mr Henry's Church in the morning, and heard Mr Wilson of Rock Island preach. Not out in afternoon

Monday Jan'y 12 Attending Court. In afternoon called to see Mrs Allen (Sallie McCaw)

Tuesday Jan'y 13 Attending Court. At 3 ½ P M dined at Mr Bradley's with Judge Drummond & wife, Mrs Blatchford & some others After night finished writing address for Colonization Society

Chicago

Wednesday Jan'y 14 1857. Attending Court. At night went to hear Jno: B Gough on temperance, but he did not arrive & we were disappointed.

<sup>1</sup>Fanny Kemble Butler, 1809-1893, was a daughter of Charles Kemble and niece of Mrs. Siddons. She made her debut in London, 1829, and toured America, 1832-1834. She married Pierce Butler, a Georgia planter, in 1834, but they separated in 1846. In 1849 she gave her first Shakespearean reading in Philadelphia, and in 1856-1860 appeared in many American cities.



Thursday Jan'y 15 Attending Court &c. Bright, cold winter weather—Called on Mrs Blackwell in the morning & Jouett Menafee in the afternoon—Had an Irish boy, James Mc Divit bound to me, and have him here at the hotel to take home with me in the morning.

\*Friday Jan'y 16 Left Chicago in the cars for home, taking my Irish boy with me. Met Savage and his wife on their return from New York Failed to make connection and stayed all night at Galesburg at Henshaw House

Quincy Saturday Jan'y 17, 1857 Coldest day of the winter. Reached home at 11 O'clock A. M.—Rev Mr Forman of Hannibal at my house. At night attended lecture at Court House by Rev Robt Baird of N. York on Denmark, Sweden, Norway & Finland—Unwritten conversational talk for 2¼ hours, but very interesting—He took tea with us—

Sunday Jan'y 18 Very cold, but moderated some before night Attended Church in the morning & heard Mr Forman preach—Not out again

Monday Jan'y 19 Bright morning, and much milder. Wind in South \*At 4 P M took the cars for Mendota on my way to Springfield—Reached Mendota at One o'clock at night, but did not make connection with train on central road

On the Road Tuesday Jan'y 20 1857 Stayed at Mendota till 9 O'clock this morning waiting for train from Galena, which should have been here at 1 A M & did not come. Sat up all night and nodded in my chair. This morning a train was made up at Amboy which came down, and on which I came to Decatur, where at 6 P M I took the cars on the Great Western for Springfield and arrived at 9½ Stopped at American, but could not get a room. Slept in the room of a Mr Veltman of New York, in which there was a vacant bed—Left my trunks at depot, over night Has been a cold day, and is a very cold night. No omnibusses on hand and had to walk to Hotel

Springfield Wednesday Jan'y 21 1857 Got settled to day in a small room at the American—In afternoon called on old Mrs Dodge at Chenery House—Very cold day

Thursday Jany 22 No abatement in the cold—In afternoon called on Mrs Jno: H & Mrs Dwight Brown at David Browns—In forenoon argued case of Croft vs Ballenger in the Supreme Court

At night Bushnell & I called on Gov Bissell & lady

Friday Jany 23 Attending Court. Bushnell left to day for home

\*Went with Grimshaw & Dummer to tea at Judge Logans where we met a number of other friends—Mrs Jno H Brown &c. At 8 I went thence to a party at Ninian Edwards—

Saturday Jany 24 1857. Attending Court—Not so cold as it has been & snowing a little to day

Sunday Jany 25 Cloudy & not so cold—Attended Mr Dodges Church in the morning, and Mr Browns at night

Monday Jany 26 Much warmer than it has been, and misting rain a little—Not attending Court to day, but preparing to address the Colonization Society to night—The night came, and with it a pretty good Audience of gentlemen & ladies, althought it was misting rain and very muddy, and many were thus kept away. I delivered a written address which occupied  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours, and for which I was much complimented Judge Underwood<sup>1</sup> followed in a—[*Rest of sentence cut out with scissors.*]

Tuesday Jany 27 1857 Frozen again this morning, but very pleasant winter weather—Attending Federal Court & trying cases After night called on Mrs Thomas who was formerly Miss Waite, & on Miss Koerner, both of whom were at Gov Bissells

Wednesday Jany 28 Bright, mild day. Attending Court—Argued case of Chandler vs N C Rail R Co in Supreme Court—Went to St Nicholas hotel, and took tea with Mr & Mrs Dodge—then to law library & worked till 9 O'clock

Thursday Jany 29 Attending Court—Very pleasant day. After tea called to see Dr & Mrs Brown, and went with them to the State House to hear Jno B Gough on temperance A large audience assembled but he did not come

<sup>1</sup>William H. Underwood, 1818-1875. Born in New York; circuit judge, 1848-1854; state representative, 1846-1848; senator, 1856-1864, 1870-1872.

Spring-  
field

Friday Jany 30 1857 Very fine, bright, mild day—Attending Court x x x Went to Dr Browns Church at night

\*Saturday Jany 31 Again quite cold & hard frozen. Argued two cases in Supreme Court to day

Spring-  
field

Sunday Feby 1 1857 Cloudy, but not very cold—Good winter weather Attended Dr Brown's Church in the morning, but he was sick, and his pulpit filled by Prest: Sturtivant

After tea called at Mr Lambs to see Black, and went with Mrs Black to Mr Dodges Church—Went home with her again, and sat an hour

\*Monday Feby 2 Cloudy winter day, not very cold—Arguing case of Dudley vs Crossthwaite in Federal Court

Tuesday Feby 3 Beautiful day—Mild as Spring—In forenoon concluded argument in case of Dudley vs Crossthwaite in Federal Court—In afternoon argued Collins vs Smith & Brown in Supreme Court. At night attended large wedding party at Birchalls—Phil Warren & Miss Birchall were married

x x x x x

Spring-  
field

Wednesday Feby 4 1857 Warm, cloudy morning—In the afternoon thunder, lightning & rain—Argued case of Patton vs Wallace in Federal Court At night went to party at B S Edwards—Twelve of us went out in omnibus, and returned same way at 12 ock at night.

Thursday Feby 5 Raining & very foggy—Commenced trial of the case of Sperry vs Cole in U S Court At night attended large & pleasant party at Lincoln's

Friday Feby 6 Warm cloudy weather occasionally raining, and the streets very muddy

Mr Williams made a short argument in the case of Sperry vs Cole and Court then adjourned till tomorrow

Spring-  
field

Saturday Feby 7 1857. Rained heavily all night last night, and continued at intervals through the day Concluded the argument in the case of Sperry vs Cole at 1 Oclock p. m. Will try no more cases this term but leave for home on Monday. In afternoon called at Mr David Browns to see Dr Brown & wife & other friends there. At night Sidell & I called at the Gov to see

Miss Emily Tillson; and I availed myself of the occasion to converse with the Gov in reference to the bill to prevent the Great Western Rail road from consolidating with the Toledo road I want the bill vetoed and called his attention to the objections—He promised to give it serious consideration Towards night turned cold & froze hard x x x x x x x

Spring-  
field

Sunday Feby 8 1857 Bright but pretty cold day—In the forenoon Sidell & I went to Dr Browns Church—Dined with Sidell & Singleton at Mr Latham's—Late in the afternoon called at the Chenery House, & spent an hour with old Mrs Dodge—After tea called at Mr Lambs & went to Mr Dodges Church with Mrs Black

\*Monday Feby 9 At 11 A. M. John Tillson Sidell & myself, took a Venison stake with Singleton at Bradys—and then took the cars for Decatur on our way home. Dr Brown & Lady in cars as far as Decatur. Arrived there about 3 P. M. waited till 6 & then took the cars on the central Road for Mendota. Very cold night, Got out of water before we reached Laselle & stood on the track 4½ hours, till they went 9 miles for water

On the  
Road

Tuesday Feby 10 Arrived at Mendota about sunrise—should have been there at midnight. Remained till 1 P. M. and took the cars for Galesburg The long bridge over Bureau forced about 5 feet out of line by the late freshet, and we had to walk across, and change cars. Has been an immense destruction of bridges &c by the rain of Friday night All gone between Mendota & Chicago, and all communication by that road cut off. Chicago & Galena, Chicago & Rock Island—Peoria & Burlington and Bureau Valley roads all rendered impassable

At 5 P M we reached Galesburg where we had to remain all night. Sidell, Tillson, Mr Johnson of Jacksonville and myself stopped at Henshaws Hotel, and were very comfortable

Cold day, and another very cold night

Quincy

Wednesday Feby 11 1857 Breakfasted at Railroad depot, and at 7 A M took the cars for Quincy—Crooked Creek bridge gone, but road not otherwise injured—Ferried over the creek and changed cars—Dined at Plymouth & reached home at 4 P. M.

Weather much milder

Thursday Feby 12 At home—Bright, warm day—South wind & thawing rapidly

\*Friday Feby 13 Warm & raining some

Saturday Feby 14 Warm & cloudy. Ice in the river left to day

Sunday Feby 15 Warm cloudy day. At Mr McCandlish Church in morning. At night went to the Episcopal & heard Mr Cracraft of Peoria

Quincy

Monday Feby 16 1857 Warm cloudy day—River open and boat left yesterday for St. Louis

At work in office

Tuesday Feby 17 Warm & cloudy—At work in office  
day

Wednesday Feby 18 Became something colder during the night & rained, and this morning everything covered with sleet—Have had a bad cold for a long time—took medicine last night, and kept my room most of to day

Thursday Feby 19 Cloudy, foggy, chilly weather—All things bowed down with sleet again this morning

\*The River is open & boats running—The first one of the season was up yesterday & others to day

Quincy

Friday Feby 20 1857 Rain, snow & sleet last night & snowing very heavily this morning, but not cold—At work in office

Saturday Feby 21 Cloudy thawing weather—At work in office. Dallam & his wife dined with us, and I bot house of Haman at corner of 6th & Vine—x x x

Sunday Feby 22 Warm thawing day. At Church in morning & not out again

Monday Feby 23 Warm, sunny day, but in afternoon clouded & commenced raining about night & continued at intervals through the night

Tuesday Feby 24 Warm & raining. At work in office

Quincy

Wednesday Feby 25 1857 Colder than yesterday—Frozen a little this morning—At work in office



Thursday Feby 26 Big white frost this morning—and bright mild day. At work in office—Miss Stebbins came to day on a visit

Friday Feby 27 Warm—Clouded in the afternoon and rained a little towards night—At work in office through the day—At night attended examination of some classes at Miss Gunnings

x x x x x

Saturday Feby 28 Very bright morning but much colder than yesterday Ground hard frozen

Cox & Bushnell dined with me—At work in office

Sunday March 1 1857 Bright day, but cold W wind blowing—Froze hard last night, but thawing a little to day.

Attended church in the morning—Rev Mr Baker of Georgia preached

\*Monday March 2 Bright, but tolerably cold—At 9 A. M. took the cars on my way to Carthage to attend Court—Dined at Plymouth—Grimshaw, Wheat, Warren & myself came on to Carthage in an open two horse waggon, and arrived just before night and stopped at Artois Hamiltons The roads were very bad, and we could travel in no other way

Tuesday March 3 Cold morning, but pleasant day Attending Court

Wednesday March 4 1857 Snowed heavily through the forenoon, but melted as fast as it fell—Turned cold at night

Attending Court

Thursday March 5 Hard frozen & very cold Attending Court—At night went to Scofields with a small party of gentlemen

Friday March 6 Very cold—Does not thaw at all—Attending Court

Saturday March 7 Bright & something warmer than yesterday—Thawing a little

Attending Court

Sunday March 8 Cold, wintry weather—Snow has fallen without intermission all day, and now at night must be from 4 to 6 inches deep. At Mr Swans Church in the morning

Carthage Monday March 9 1857 About 8 inches snow this morning  
8  
and very cold—Has thawed but little, the snow being crisp under foot all day—Clear, cold night—Attending Court

Tuesday March 10 Bright day, and thawing a little, but became very cold again at night—Attending Court—Took supper & spent the evening at Alex Sympsons

Wednesday March 11 Very cold this morning water frozen in my room—Cold, clear day—Attending Court

\*At night had quite a little party of ladies & gentlemen at Artois Hamiltons—Saw more of Carthage society than ever before, tho I have been attending Court there for 20 years

Carthage & Quincy Thursday March 12 1857 Court adjourned to day. At 10½ A. M. Grimshaw, John Williams, Wheat and myself left Carthage for Plymouth on our way home—Came in two horse wagon, of Wallace with four mules attached—Got along pretty well—Arrived at Plymouth about three—Took dinner at the eating house & the depot—I then went to Sam Tibbetts, and remained till the cars came at 9 at night. Took them, and reached home at 11½ at night

\*Friday March 13 At home & at work in office—Pleasant day  
5

Saturday March 14 At work in office Pleasant day

Quincy Sunday March 15 Pleasant day. Attended Church in the morning. Mr King preached for Mr McCandlish At night went to Mr Kings Church & heard him again

\*Monday March 16 Cloudy, chilly morning. A very little snow, and a very little sleet on the ground—just enough to be perceived \*At work in office Dallam & wife & George Phelps & wife & some others took tea with us

Tuesday March 17 Has rained nearly all day—Delano moved from my office to his own

At work in office

Wednesday March 18 Turned cold last night. Ground frozen this morning—Cloudy & cold all day At work in office

Thursday March 19 1857 Pleasant day. At work in office—Mrs B & self at Kingman's to tea with some other friends

Friday March 20 Pleasant Spring day. At work in office At night Mrs B & I attended lecture at the Court House by Horace Mann. Subject, woman—Good lecture

Saturday March 21 Beautiful day. At work in office some & some not—Called in the morning to see Mrs Bull & Mrs Baldwin—in the afternoon to see Mrs Hodges & Miss Williams—At night called at Thayers with Mrs B

Sunday March 22 Very heavy thunder storm & rain last night—and warm cloudy day. At Church in morning—At night at Mr Emerys Church—Mrs Ford took tea with us

Monday March 23 1857 Court commenced to day—Has rained heavily with very little intermission thro the day.

Tuesday March 24 Attending Court. Mr & Mrs Enos & Harry & Rowly Cox dined with us. <sup>At night</sup> Mrs B & self went to City Hall to hear Mrs McCready ready. Lady of talent, but did not do Lady Macbeth to my liking

Wednesday March 25 Attending Court—Frozen a little this morning—Jacob Caldwell arrived to day

Thursday March 26 Cold, cloudy morning and raining some through the day Attending Court

Friday March 27, 1857 Continues very cloudy and chilly. Attending Court. At night at exhibition of some classes at Miss Gunnings

x x x

Saturday March 28 Pleasant spring day. Attending Court. At night with Mrs Cox to hear Mrs McCready

Sunday March 29 At Mr McCandlish Church in the morning & Mr Kings at night Very pretty, pleasant day x x

Monday March 30 Very fine day. Attending Court

Tuesday March 31 Warm & raining a little

Rained considerably through the day

Attending Court and trying cases—

Quincy  
Wednes-  
day

Wednesday Apl 1 1857 Cloudy morning & cool but pleasant day. Jno: B. Huston Esqr of Winchester Ky & Alex Sympson took tea with me—Attending Court

Thursday Apl. 2 Froze last night & cold morning—Attending Court

Friday Apl. 3 Pleasant day—Attending Court

Saturday Apl 4 Cloudy & raining some in afternoon—Capt Sterne & Mrs Wm Sterne dined with us. After dinner Mrs B & I went to Bushnells to funeral of Orphanas child Dallam thrashed Brooks this morning.<sup>1</sup>

Quincy

Sunday Apl. 5 1857 Turned cold in the night, and everything hard frozen this morning—A very cold day Attended Church in morning Mr Jacques, a methodist minister preached—Mr McCandlish being absent at Presbytery. At night went to Mr Kings Church

Monday Apl. 6 Very cold day. Sun shining but scarcely thaws at all—and none at all in the shade \*Attending Court in afternoon At night went with Mrs B to the Hall to hear Dr Boynton on Geology—A very pleasing introductory lecture

Tuesday Apl. 7 Moderated some, and tolerably pleasant—tho cloudy & threatning rain towards night. Attending Court—Attended at night another lecture by Boynton on geology

Quincy

Wednesday Apl. 8 1857 Weather more pleasant Attending Court

Thursday Apl 9 Warm, sunny, spring like day. Attending Court. \*Mrs & Miss Austin, Mr & Mrs Dallam & Misses Palmer took tea with us—

Friday Apl 10 Cold again this morning, & bleak, cloudy, cold day. Attending Court

<sup>1</sup>A fight between Dallam and Austin Brooks, editors of the Republican and Democratic papers. *Quincy Whig*, April 6, 1857. The combatants were separated before much damage was done; Brooks had referred to Dallam in print in "fighting words."

Saturday Apl 11 Cold, keen morning, but bright  
Got through with business & in the afternoon adjourned Court  
till Court in Course Heard Boyntons third lecture on geology

Sunday Apl. 12 Rather pleasant day At church in morn-  
<sup>cold day</sup>  
ing & evening Mr Baker preached both times He dined with us

Quincy

Monday Apl 13 1857 Very cold day—At work in office—At  
night attended Boyntons 4th lecture on geology at City Hall

Tuesday Apl 14 Cold, windy day. At work in office—Mrs  
George Phelps took tea with us, and then all attended Boynton's  
5th lecture on geology, at City Hall. Very cold night—Severe  
winter

x x x x x x x x x x x x x

Wednesday Apl 15 Very cold last night, and this morning—  
Severe winter At work in office

Thursday Apl 16 Still very cold—The ground is frozen as  
hard as in mid winter—At work in office Mrs B & self at Cox's  
to supper Returned at 9 O'clock & attended Republican meet-  
ing at Court House Nominated Savage for Mayor—Goodwin  
for Marshall

Quincy

Friday Apl 17 1857 Very cold, cloudy & spitting snow a  
little—At work in office

Saturday Apl 18 Snow an inch or two deep this morning,  
but not so cold as yesterday—The snow has melted away rapidly.  
M S Kimball returned to day to resume his studies after having  
been absent thro the winter teaching school Mr Smith, a Ger-  
man, also entered the office to day to commence the study of law  
—At night went with Mrs Cox to Boynton's 7th lecture on geo-  
logy She, Cox & Bushnell having taken tea with us—

Sunday Apl. 19 Bright day & tolerably pleasant Attended  
Mr McCandlish's Church in morning & Mr Kings at night, where  
Mr Baker preached

Quincy

Monday April 20 1857 Something warmer than it has been,  
and cloudy, threatning rain—Municipal election going on—At  
night went with Misses Bushnell to Boynton's 7th lecture



Badly beaten in the election. Thayer elected Mayor—Barry Marshall—and all but three of the democratic Aldermen

Tuesday Apl. 21 Cold, cloudy day, occasionally spitting snow—At work in office

Wednesday Apl. 22 Cold morning, but bright mild day—At work in office

Thursday Apl 23 Day quite pleasant—At work in office—At night attended Boyntons last lecture on geology—I have not been satisfied with him—I think him a charlatan & know him to be pedant & egotist—

Quincy

Friday Apl 24 1857 Fine Spring day—At work in office

\*Saturday Apl 25 Warm day, a little hazy and looking like rain. Mrs B & self went out to Stewarts nursery this morning, and I have worked in garden most of the day—

Sunday Apl 26 Rained some last night & quite cool again to day—At Church in morning and at Mr Kings at night where Mr Baker preached x

Monday Apl. 27 Fine Spring day—Divided my time between the office & the garden—Set out ever greens &c

Mrs Capt Ford came to day to make us a visit

Quincy

Tuesday Apl. 28 1857 Fine Spring day—At work in office & garden—

Wednesday Apl. 29 Fine Spring day. At work in office & garden

Thursday Apl. 30 Warm & dusty, but cloudy & threatening rain Received this morning telegraphic despatch from Ottawa, where Supreme Court is in session, to go there and argue a land suit under the 2nd section of the limitation law of 1839.<sup>1</sup> Capt Fords case—I will probably go

<sup>1</sup>Limitation Law of 1839. The act in question is "An Act to quiet possessions and confirm titles to land."

"Sec. 2. Hereafter, whenever a person having color of title, made in good faith, to vacant and unoccupied land, shall, after the passage of this act, pay all taxes legally assessed thereon for seven successive years, he or she shall be deemed and adjudged to be the legal owner of said vacant and unoccupied land, to the extent and according to the purport of

At 3½ P M left home on the cars for Ottawa—Reached Wyannet about midnight where I staid till morning—Raining some when we got there

Ottawa Friday May 1 1857 Left Wyannet this morning at 7 Oclock on the Rock Island road and came to Ottawa where I arrived at 9 A. M. Found on my arrival that Capt Ford's case had been argued yesterday, but there is another of the same character, involving the same principles which I will remain to argue Has rained gently at intervals through the day. I am stopping at the Guiger House

Saturday May 2 Tolerable Spring weather—Attending Court

Sunday May 3 Bright, pretty day. At the Congregational Church in the morning, being no Presbyterian here, and heard Mr Carter of Pittsfield preach

Ottawa Monday May 4 1857 Cool, cloudy day. From the opening of Court in the morning till adjournment for dinner I was making an argument in the case of Harding vs Butt—2nd section of limitation law of 1839. Was argued in afternoon by Mr Williams & Mr Blackwell for Deft—and will be concluded tomorrow by Mr Beckwith for Pltf

I expect to take the cars at 8.40 min: for home Mr Williams goes with me.

Mr Williams & self left Ottawa as we expected. Reached Wyannet between 11 & 12 at night where we had to wait for the train down from Chicago which was due at 3, but did not arrive till 5. A. M. Sat up all night

Quincy Tuesday May 5 1857 Left Wyannet at 5 this morning—breakfasted at Galesburg, and reached home at 1 P. M. Soon

his or her paper title. All persons holding under such tax-payer, by purchase, devise, or descent, before said seven years shall have expired, and who shall continue to pay the taxes as aforesaid, so as to complete the payment of taxes for the term aforesaid, shall be entitled to the benefit of this section: *Provided, however,* If any person, having a better paper title to said vacant and unoccupied land, shall, during the said term of seven years, pay the taxes assessed on said land for any one or more years of the said term of seven years, then and in that case such tax-payer, his heirs and assigns, shall not be entitled to the benefit of this section." *Laws of Illinois, 1838-1839, p. 266-267.*

after Mrs Browning & Mrs Ford got home from Warsaw, where they had been on a visit—

Wednesday May 6 Finest day of the season At work in the office and garden

Thursday May 7 First day this season that it has been warm enough to do without fire. Fine Spring day—At work in garden & office

Friday May 8 Very warm, windy & dusty At work in office—In afternoon Mrs B & self called on Mr & Mrs Brown & Miss Lord of N Y at Mr Bushnells

Quincy Saturday May 9 1857 Very warm & dusty. At work in office

Sunday May 10 Bright day, but cool—Fire necessary—Attended church in morning, but not being very well was not out again.

Monday May 11 Cloudy, cool morning Fire very necessary \*At 2 P M Mrs Ford, who has been with us on a visit for two weeks left on Steamer Quincy—I also took passage on same boat for St Louis to make arrangements with the Chamber of Commerce (having been written to upon the subject) for bringing suit against the Rock Island bridge for an abatement of that obstruction to the navigation of the Mississippi River<sup>1</sup>

St Louis Tuesday May 12 1857 Reached St Louis at 6 this morning and stopped at Planters House. Part of the morning was out with Mrs Ford doing some errands for Mrs Browning Called to see Elisha Brown at his place of business—In afternoon called to see Mrs Andrews at Monroe House—Met also there Mrs Rebecca Morton—Called also on I R Barret The morning was very cold and has been quite cool all day—Have fire in my room

After tea went on board Steamer Quincy & sat awhile with Capt & Mrs Ford—then returned to my room & read Hugh Millers "Footprints of the Creator" till 11 O'clock at night, and then went to bed

<sup>1</sup>The crossing of the Mississippi by railroads running west from Chicago was deflecting the trade of the upper Mississippi from St. Louis to Chicago. The suit in question was an attempt backed by St. Louis interests to prove the Rock Island bridge an obstruction to navigation.

St. Louis Wednesday May 13 1857 Warmer than yesterday, and cloudy—threatning rain. After breakfast went with Mrs Ford to call on Mrs Hogue, formerly Mary Goddin. Then went to see Derrick January Chairman of the finance committee of the Chamber of Commerce, in relation to suit against Rock Island bridge—They offer me \$5000 to take charge of the suit, they agreeing to furnish a man to collect and prepare the evidence under my direction. I have taken the matter under advisement—cannot answer till I see and confer with Bushnell—I am now ready to return home \*Between 3 & 4 P. M. left St Louis on Steamer Quincy for home—The day has been pretty warm—Rained some in afternoon, and heavily with thunder and lightning during the night.

Quincy Thursday May 14 1857 On the River—Cold day with wind blowing heavily Reached Quincy at 5 P. M. Mrs Ford with me—Found Mrs Browning quite ill with a cold. Miss Cornelia Lott at my house on a visit

Friday May 15 Cold & cloudy. Fires very necessary to comfort Mrs Ford left after dinner At work in office Looks very much like rain at night—Rev Mr Gale took tea with us

Saturday May 16 All appearance of rain gone—Bright & pleasant. No fire needed in afternoon Apple, plumb & cherry trees in full bloom & have been for several days—Saw to day the first dandelion blossom of the season

Quincy Sunday May 17 1857 Cold day—At Church in the morning, and not out again except to call at Dallams after tea x

Monday May 18 Cold, windy & dusty. Fires still necessary At work in office

x x x x x x x x x x x

Tuesday May 19 Still cold & dry At work in office

Wednesday May 20 Fine day—bright & warm and very dry—Compelled to water things in the garden to keep them alive

Mr & Mrs Cox dined with us—At work in office

Thursday May 21 Warm & dry—At work in office Charles Rowland dined with us, and some thirty young friends gave us a surprise party at night

## Quincy

Friday—May 22 1857 Warm & dry—At work in office

Saturday May 23 Warm & dry—Mrs Barrow dined at my house, & Mrs Cox Emma and I dined on board Steamer Quincy with Mrs Ford—took a delightful run up the bay. Mr & Mrs Chase & Emma Veith of Macomb came to our house in the evening to remain a day or two

Sunday May 24 Warm day—At Church in the morning—Mr Chase preached—Did not go out again Last night John Wood, Lorenzo Bull, C H Bull & N Bushnell came to my house to consult about forming a partnership for banking. We agreed to associate for that purpose and commence business the first of October<sup>1</sup>

Quincy &  
Carthage

Monday May 25 1857 Commenced raining just before night yesterday and rained gently till sometime in the night. It was much needed, and has greatly revived vegetation Left home at day break this morning for Carthage—Came on Rail Road to Plymouth there hired a carriage, and in company with Wheat, Harmon, & Grimshaw came on to Carthage and stopped at Artoise Hamiltons

Attending Court rest of the day—Cloudy and cooler than yesterday, and heavy rain at night

Tuesday May 26 About day break this morning Jake Caldwell came to my room with a letter from Bushnell, requesting my immediate return to Quincy to give legal advice, and to prepare the necessary papers for the transfer of the Quincy and Chicago Rail Road<sup>2</sup> to Mr Von Hoffmann & others mortgagees of the road—Jake came from Plymouth with horse & buggy—got lost and was out most of the night, and I did not think the horse he had could take us down in time. So we employed Harnest to send us down in a two horse carriage—We left Carthage at 5½ A M and reached Plymouth in time for the 9 O'clock down train, and

<sup>1</sup>The panic of 1857 probably prevented the formation of the bank in question.

<sup>2</sup>Quincy and Chicago Railroad. This was the Northern Cross line from Quincy to Galesburg. *Quincy Whig*, August 7, 1857. On April 4 the *Whig* had announced the consolidation of the Quincy and Chicago and Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroads.



got home before dinner—I had an interview with Mr Bushnell & Mr Von Hoffman after dinner, and was then occupied until bed time upon the papers which were necessary between them Mrs Ford took tea with us—The day has been quite cool—A little fire necessary to comfort

Quincy

Wednesday, May 27 1857 Cool, cloudy day—Fire very comfortable—Mrs Browning went to Mr Cox's to breakfast—I was so occupied I could not go. Busy in the preparation of papers for Bushnell and Von Hoffmann. Got through with them in the afternoon & Von Hoffmann left for Chicago on the 3. P M train. I expect to return to Carthage tomorrow Miss Carey a quakeress friend of Miss Lott at our house to tea, and to remain all night

Thursday May 28 At 5 this morning Delano and I took the cars for Carthage—Breakfasted at Plymouth, and came on to Carthage in a hack from livery stable—reached here at 10½—Stopped at Artois Hamiltons—Attending Court rest of the day—Very cold for the season Fire necessary

Carthage  
& Quincy

Friday May 29 1857 Beautiful day—After dinner left Carthage in a hack for Plymouth, on my way home. Reached Plymouth at 5 P. M. took tea at Sam Tibbetts at 9 took the cars & reached home at 11.

Saturday May 30 At home at work in office. Was raining this morning and has continued to do so at intervals through the day. Warm, growing weather & very heavy rain in the afternoon

Sunday May 31 Bright in the morning—Cloudy in the afternoon with occasional sprinkles of rain & cool all day

At Church in forenoon but not out again

Quincy

Monday June 1 1857 Cloudy, cool morning

Fire necessary—Preparing to start to Springfield tomorrow to attend the U S Court xxxxxxxx

Tuesday June 2 At five this morning took the cars & ran out to Camp Point—breakfasted there, and then in a hack of Alex Beards came to Naples where I arrived before two—Dined took the cars again & reached Springfield just before night—Stopped

at the American Has been cool thro the day, but is warm now at night—Fire in the cars this morning, and wore my overcoat to Naples—The spring has been unusually cold & backward—Apple, pear & cherry trees not all yet done blooming Corn just coming up—No winter wheat—all killed by the severity of March

Spring-  
field

Wednesday June 3 1857 Cold morning—pleasant day, but quite cold again at night—Thunder storm and heavy rain last night Attending Court, but not doing much—Mr Williams is not here—Grimshaw has not arrived, and I cannot try my cases till he does—Is expected to night x x x

Thursday June 4 Cold, drizzling, disagreeable day—Attending Court, and trying cases After tea called on old Mrs Dodge

Friday June 5 Bright, but very cool day—Attending Court & trying cases—After tea called on Mrs Dwight Brown—then returned to my room and divided the evening between law & geology

Spring-  
field

Saturday June 6 1857 A very cold morning, but became warm & pleasant during the day—The night is bright, beautiful & mild At work in Court

After tea went to see Dr & Mrs Brown, who have just returned from Ky—Mrs Jouett is with them x x

Sunday June 7 A very warm day—The first genuine summer day we have had—Rained last night, and rained very heavily just as I was ready to go to Church this morning—Went to Dr Browns Church—thin house, but fine sermon—After tea went up to Mrs Smiths & went to Church with Mrs David Brown & Miss Wingate. Union Concert at Dr Brown's Church of his & Mr Dodges Warm beautiful night Full moon

Spring-  
field

Monday June 8 1857 Attending Court. Very warm day. Rain in the afternoon. Took tea at Dubois' with some friends—and after tea called on Mrs R V Dodge x

Tuesday June 9 Attending Court—Bright, warm summer day—After tea called at Dwight Browns x x x x x

Wednesday June 10 Warm, cloudy morning—Heavy rain between 7 & 8 O'clock A. M. and very heavy between 8 & 9 with thunder & lightning Continued to rain at intervals thro the day,

being very warm At night went to Fondy's to the wedding of Miss Jennie Barret who was married to Chas Ridgely.<sup>1</sup> Among other guests present were Douglass & his wife. Mrs D. is handsome, well bred & agreeable—plain & natural in her manners

pring-  
eld

Thursday June 11 1857 Bright, beautiful day—Not a cloud afloat, and just of the proper temperature to be delicious—

Attending Court—In the evening called at Mr Browns x

Friday June 12 Rained in the night & raining heavily this morning, but cleared off toward noon & became a pretty day

After tea called at Mr Bunn's and then went to the state house & heard Douglass make a political speech

He extolled the Dred Scott decision—Said the Negroes were an inferior race—incapable of taking care of themselves—that it

it was

was a law of nature than the inferior should submit to the Superior, and the duty of the superior to take care of them—that the attempt to recognize the equality of the human race was the cause of the degradation and imbecility of Mexico & Central America, and that the same cause if put in operation would degrade us here—that the only issue now before the people was that of negro equality, and it could only be met by upholding the Dred Scott decision

pring-  
eld

He denounced the Mormons most terribly, and said the only remedy for the existing state of things in Utah was the repeal by Congress of their organic law, and as a consequence all their territorial laws—then to send out a force adequate to that purpose, and arrest and bring them to the states for trial for treason, murder &c

I should take this remedy, however proper it may be, to be a pretty thorough demolition of the squatter sovereignty humbug.

pring-  
eld

Saturday June 13 1857 Warm—Commenced raining about 11 O'clock A M, and continued to thunder, lighten and rain heavily at intervals, till night—A great deal of water fell. I went to David Brown's to tea

<sup>1</sup>Charles Ridgely, son of N. H. Ridgely.

Sunday June 14 A very warm day Attended Mr Dodge's church in the morning. In the evening called at Mr Browns & went with them to his Church

Monday June 15 Closed my business in court, and hope to start home in the morning—Warm day Thunder & heavy rain thro the afternoon. Called on Mrs Ridgely in the morning, and spent most of the afternoon with Dr McChesney among his minerals and fossils, and with Mr Dodge at his office. Called at Dr Browns after tea

Spring-  
field

Tuesday, June 16 1857 At 9 A M took the cars for St. Louis, on my way home—Reached St Louis at 2 P. M. crossed the River, and took passage on Die Vernon for Quincy, which started out at 4 P. M. The day has been very warm. raining at intervals—sometimes quite heavily x x x x x

Wednesday June 17 Cloudy & very cold for the season—Fire necessary to comfort—Reached home at 2 P. M.

Thursday June 18 Cloudy, cold day, until late in afternoon became some warmer & sun broke out—At work in office Have had fire all day

Friday June 19 At work in office—Cool day but bright

Quincy

Saturday June 20 1857 Cool, but bright day after rain last night—Fire ~~necessary~~ comfortable in the house—

At work in office. Walked out to Asburys to tea—Mrs B not well enough to go

Sunday June 21 Very pleasant day, but cool for the season—At Church morning & evening—Miss Cornelia Lott returned from Hannibal

Monday June 22 Bright, beautiful morning with promise of a warm day tho' now, early, cool enough to make fire comfortable After tea Mrs Browning and I rode out to Cox.

Company in after night, and I sat up late, although I have to be up at day break to take the cars for Galesburg

Quincy &  
Gales-  
burg

Tuesday June 23 1857 At 5 O'clock this morning I took the cars for Galesburg to attend meeting of the board of Trustees & commencement at Knox College. Reached there at 10 A. M.

and went directly to the place of meeting of the Board. During the day the differences existing between Prest: Blanchard & Professor Gale, and which have existed for some years came before the board<sup>1</sup>

The appointment of a committee to whom the subject should be referred was moved & carried, and the committee appointed by the board—The Committee consisted of myself as chairman, & Mess Knox,<sup>2</sup> Withrow, Coalton & Bascom

Gales-  
burg

Wednesday June 24 1857 The board was to convene this morning at 10½ O'clock, and the committee of which I was chairman met at 8 at Coulton's. Knox, Withrow & myself agreed upon a resolution requesting Prest: Blanchard & Professor Gale to resign their places, which I reported to the board at its meeting.

Its consideration occupied us all day. A severe struggle for its defeat was made by Blanchard's friends, but late in the afternoon we succeeded in passing it by a vote of 11 against 10—whereupon they both resigned and their resignations were accepted

Blanchard and his friends predict disastrous consequences to the College, but I am satisfied the measure will promote its prosperity if the places are well & properly filled

Gales-  
burg

Thursday June 25 1857 This was Commencement day, but in consequence of the removal of the Prest: most of the students, who were his friends, (as but few of any other class will remain at the College) refused to participate in the exercises—Charles Bunce, one of the graduating class, delivered his speech—and Rev: Ed: Beecher,<sup>3</sup> who has made himself very unbecomingly officious in the matter, gave some twaddle on behalf of the others

<sup>1</sup>The controversy over control of Knox College is fully treated in this and the following pages of the diary.

<sup>2</sup>James Knox, 1807-1876. Born in New York; came to Illinois, 1836. President of Peoria and Oquawka Railroad; procured charter of Knox College. Member of Constitutional Convention of 1847; representative in Congress, 1853-1857. Whig and then Republican.

<sup>3</sup>The Reverend Edward Beecher, 1803-1895. Born in New York; brother of Henry Ward Beecher; graduate of Yale; president of Illinois College, 1830-1844; pastor in Boston, 1844-1856; 1856-1871, pastor First Congregational Church at Galesburg; strongly antislavery.



C. M. Pomeroy who had acted with us in the removal of the Prest: left last night, and this morning, Rev Mr Bascom, one of Blanchards friends, taking advantage of Pomeroy's absence, brought forward a proposition to employ Blanchard to act as Prest: the ensuing year. This, of course, was resisted, for existing evils would have been aggravated instead of diminished by its adoption

After a hard contest, protracted through most of the day we defeated the proposition.

A committee consisting of Messrs Gale, Bascom & Withrow was appointed to correspond upon the subject of the vacant Presidency & Professorship, and to report to the board on the first Thursday in August, at which time another meeting is to be held

Having completed the business before us near 4 P. M. we adjourned

I have been staying at Professor Gales

Delightful summer weather—At 6 P. M. I took the cars for home, where I arrived at 11 at night

Quincy

Friday June 26 1857 Very warm day—At work in office—Mrs Capt Ford came to remain a few days with us. Quite a number of our friends came in to supper, after which Mrs Cox, Mrs Gilpin, Emma, Jake and myself went to the Theatre to see Uncle Tom's Cabin—Eva, by little Miss Borrette eight years old, was rendered in the most truthful & touching manner—Uncle Tom & Topsy were both well represented, but the other characters very badly

Saturday June 27 Warm & dry. At work in office. The two Bulls, Bushnell & myself & John Wood settled to day the terms of our contemplated partnership as bankers. We hope to commence 1st Oct

Quincy

Sunday, June 28 1857 Fine day. At Church morning & evening Southack came up from Hannibal to Church, and dined with us

Monday, June 29 Fine day. At work in office. After dinner our friends Mrs Ford and Miss Lott left us—The first for St

Louis—the latter for Pennsylvania by way of St Louis. Mrs B & I rode out to Cox's after tea

Tuesday June 30 Very fine day—At work in office. At night attended straw berry & ice cream festival given at City Hall by the ladies of the Westminster Church, and passed a very pleasant evening

Wednesday July 1 1857 Delightful day—At work in office

Thursday July 2 Very cold day for the season—Had fire in the office all the forenoon, and in our room at home at night  
At work in office

Friday July 3 Pleasant day—Warmer than yesterday—At work in office

Saturday July 4 Very beautiful morning & fine day—The Bulls Asburys Bushnells, & others, went out to Cox's & had a pick nick I was of the party, but Mrs Browning did not go

At night they all came to my house where we had a display of fire works—The day passed pleasantly off

Sunday July 5 1857 Fine day. At Church in the morning, but not out again

Monday July 6 Fine morning & warm. At 5 A. M. took the cars for Chicago to attend the U S Circuit Court—Dined at Mendota—Raining whilst there & most of the way from there to Chicago, but not heavily Much cooler than when I left home—

When just in the outskirts of Chicago we came upon a train off the track which detained us about an hour, but we reached the depot by sundown. I stopped at the Briggs House

I brought Jimmy McDivit my Irish boy, with me to Chicago to leave him with his mother, not wishing to keep him any longer—He left the cars where the train was off the track to walk in and have not seen him since

Tuesday July 7 1857 Judge Mclean arrived last night, and we have been diligently at work all day in Court At night Bushnell & I went to the theatre, and heard Burton in Paul Pry The day has been very warm

Wednesday July 8 Warm day—At work in Court—At night Bushnell, Lincoln & myself went to theatre & heard Burton in the

Toodles—His acting is very fine—that is it does not appear like *acting* at all—He is much the finest comedian I have ever seen

Thursday July 9 Warm day. At work in Court

Chicago Friday July 10 1857 Continues warm & dry. At work in Court. Judge McLean, Mr Williams and myself took tea at Judge Drummonds

Saturday July 11 Very warm day—At work in Court

Sunday July 12 Quite the warmest day of the season—In the morning attended South Presbyterian Church and heard Dr Rice preach an excellent sermon

Intended to go and hear him at the North Church again at night, but a thunder storm came up just before night and prevented

Rain is falling finely now at 9 O'clock with a prospect of continuing all night—It is still very warm & thundering and lightning

Chicago Monday July 13 1857 Warm day—Some rain in the afternoon—At work in Court—At night Lincoln & myself went to the Theatre and saw Burton in the character of Capt Cuttle in the play of Dombey & Son. This is very admirable—Mrs Burton did Susan Nipper, the black eyed one very well—The others were hum drum—Grimshaw came up this evening

Tuesday July 14 Warm with occasional rain. At work in Court John Wood came up this morning—I heard from him of the death of Mr Levi Wells one of our oldest citizens, who was buried on Sunday

Wednesday July 15 At work in Court—Cool day—In afternoon and at night looked & felt like November

Chicago Thursday July 16 1857 Warm again to day—Hard at work in Court

Friday July 17 Hot—the hottest day of the season—Fine breeze, but still melting hot—Hard at work in Court—After Court adjourned called at Judge McLean's room to take leave of him as he goes home to night Had some political talk with him—He is very desponding about the future of the Country—Thinks Greely, Chase of Ohio and all that class of Republicans

are extreme in their views, politically dishonest & unsafe. Thinks the same thing of pro-slavery democrats—

Says Orr of S. C.<sup>1</sup> is the best & most conservative Southern democrat he knows That *subrosa* he, Orr, is in favour of making Kansas a free State &c. After tea went on N. side & spent an hour or so with my friends Mrs Allen & Miss Emma Macaw

icago

Saturday July 18 1857 Another very warm day and excessively hot night. At work in Court before Judge Drummond Judge Mclean left last night.

Sunday July 19 Fine day—Quite warm, but fresh breeze in afternoon Attended Mr Henrys Church in the morning, and heard him preach. Went again at night and heard an old Scotch Covenanter, who preached a very good sermon

Monday July 20 Very pleasant day—At work in Court—In afternoon Douglass met with me, and insisted upon my going with him to the studio of Mr Volk<sup>2</sup> (a man who used to work in a marble yard at Quincy) to see a bust which, or the model of one, he was casting for him Douglass—It is a very superior thing—decidedly a work of genius

[*Leaf torn out.*]

icago

Saturday July 25, 1857 Very warm & dry—At work in Court

Sunday July 26 Very warm—Attended Mr Henrys Church morning & evening—A stranger preached in the morning—Mr Henry in the evening

Monday July 27 Rained last night, and several pretty heavy  
6  
showers through the day & very warm—Rained again at night and became cooler At work in Court

Tuesday July 28 Bright, beautiful day, and very pleasant—At work in Court—

<sup>1</sup>James L. Orr, 1822-1873. Representative of South Carolina in the 31st to 35th congresses; speaker, 35th Congress.

<sup>2</sup>Leonard W. Volk, 1828-1895. Born in New York; came west in 1848; studied in Italy; came to Chicago, 1857. His first bust was of Stephen A. Douglas, who had assisted him in securing his art education.

Wednesday July 29 Pleasant day—Pretty heavy shower of rain in forenoon—At work in Court

Chicago Thursday July 30 Very fine day—Warm & good shower in afternoon. At work in Court in forenoon—Have closed my business for this term, and hope to start home at 9 O'clock to night Left Chicago on the cars for home at 9 P. M.

Friday July 31 Warm day—Breakfasted at Galesburg & reached home between 10 & 11 A. M.

Quincy Saturday—Augt 1 1857 Very warm day—Miss Fanny Austin, Mrs Dallam's sister came to our house this morning, sick—Little Guy Dallam is very ill, and we have brot Miss Fanny where she will be more comfortable, and that Mrs B may have her well taken care of—Some rain in the evening

Sunday Augt 2 At 2 O'clock this morning Dallam came for Mrs Browning Guy being dead—She went up and remained till day. Miss Fanny being much better returned to her sisters At 5 P. M. we buried the little fellow—Has been a very warm day—At Church in the morning, and again at night.

Monday 3 Very warm day—At work in office

Quincy Tuesday Augt 4 1857 Pleasant day. Not so warm as yesterday—Had a little rain last night. At work in office After tea Mrs B & I called at Dallams & Flaggs

Wednesday 5 Very fine day. After breakfast took Mrs Dallam out to the cemetery to see Guys grave At work in office

Thursday 6 Fine day—At work in office

Friday 7 Quite warm—At work in office—Heavy wind in afternoon, & fine rain about night

Saturday 8 Warm, & cloudy—At work in office

Quincy Sunday Augt 9 1857 Fine rain last night, and warm with occasional rain during the day. At Church in the morning. At night went to Episcopal Church with Miss Fanny & Rachel Austin & heard Mr Rudder

Monday 10 Clear & warm—At work in office. At night went to Mr Foots Church to hear Dr Edward Beecher speak upon the subject of the recent difficulties in Knox College For



an hour & a half he indulged in bitter denunciation of professor Gale with occasional abuse of the Trustees who had cooperated in the removal of Prest: Blanchard—His speech evinced neither the spirit of a gentleman or Christian. His avowed object is to compel the Trustees to reinstate Blanchard, but it is to be hoped he will not succeed<sup>1</sup>

Quincy

Tuesday, Augt 11 1857 Fine day. At work in office Misses Austin & some fifteen or twenty other young friends at our house—A part to tea and all to spend the evening

Wednesday 12 Very warm, but fine day. At work in office in the forenoon. At 5 P. M. took the cars for Galesburg to attend meeting of the trustees of Knox College—Arrived at 9 at night, and stopped at Prof Gales. A meeting of some of the members of the board was held at old Mr Ferris after my arrival, & we agreed to meet there again in the morning to determine upon our course of action before going into the board—

Gales-  
burg

Thursday—Augt 13 1857 After breakfast all the trustees 11 in number opposed to reinstating Blanchard in the Presidency met at old Mr Ferris' and agreed upon our course of action for the day. Between 10 & 11 A. M. board met—All present except Mr Osborn, who was sick in Wisconsin & could not come. We soon adjourned for the purpose of holding an informal and unofficial meeting for the purpose of Conference, and with the exception of an hour for dinner continued in session informally until nearly night without effecting anything.

Gales-  
burg

The majority of those present were bent upon reelecting Blanchard, and would accept of nothing else. To prevent so great an outrage, which they could not have perpetrated if Mr Osborn had been present we refused to meet with Blanchards friends. They could not form a quorum without us and of course could not accomplish their purpose—For particular account of our proceedings see published statement drawn up by myself, and signed by eleven of the trustees

<sup>1</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, August 31, 1857, printed a long letter of Browning defending himself against Beecher's attacks; September 9 it printed a reply of Beecher's alleging that Browning had violated a compromise made in 1854 by trying to elect a trustee of his party in 1856.

The object of meeting was to elect a President and professor of Belle letters. We did not succeed in doing so, and the College is left, for the time being without these officers

This is preferable to putting Blanchard again at the head of the institution

Gales-  
burg

Friday Augt 14 1857 At the request of the trustees who cooperated with me against the re election of Blanchard I remained here to day, and drew up a statement of our proceedings at the last meeting, and at this which is to be published, and to which I refer for particulars The weather is very warm and a great deal of rain falling

Saturday, Augt 15 About 10 A M Josiah Gale<sup>1</sup> took his carriage and drove me down to Knoxville. Stopped at Rogers tavern

Our friends, the Johnstons, from Peoria and here, quartered up over his store—Spent an hour or two with them, and then came on to Peoria where I arrived about night, & stopped at the Peoria House

Sanborn & Knox signed the statement I had prepared, and I sent it back to Selden Gale for publication

Peoria

Sunday, Augt 16 1857 Rained considerably yesterday and all night last night, and at intervals again today. After breakfast called to see Jennie & Letitia Johnston who are at home.

Letitia

Went with ~~Helen~~ to the Presbyterian Church Took tea with them, and remained till 9 O'clock at night—Raining and very warm

Monday Augt 17 Cloudy & quite cool—In the forenoon Jennie and I called on Mrs Hamlin & Mrs & Miss Rankin—Dined with Jennie & Letitia & Mr Johnston who reached home from Knoxville just as dinner was ready. After dinner Jenny & I called on Miss Reynolds, and between 4 & 5 I took the cars for Knoxville where I arrived just at night. Stopped at Rogers tavern Called and sat an hour or so with Mrs Johnson & Bettie

Knoxville  
& Quincy

Tuesday Augt 18 1857 Very fine, pleasant day. Remained with my friends at Knoxville till after dinner—Called to see

<sup>1</sup>Probably the son of William Seldon Gale and grandson of George Washington Gale. Clerk of Circuit Court of Knox County at the time of his death in 1889.

Helen (Mrs Greenleaf) and found Miss Mary Pearson at the hotel—In afternoon went to Galesburg on freight train & came home at night.

Wednesday 19 Fine day—At home and at work in office  
Miss Gunning with us on a visit

Thursday 20 At work in office—Fine day. Mrs Brown-  
ing, Miss Gunning & self, with some other friends took tea at  
Mr Collins—Mrs B & self then attended a festival at Methodist  
Church at corner of 5th & York streets

Friday Augt 21 1857 Cool, pleasant day—At work in office—

Saturday 22 Fine day—At work in office Mrs B & self  
went to Coxs to tea

Sunday 23 Pleasant day. At Church morning and evening.  
In the morning saw at Church what used to be Margaret Nel-  
son—She having been married several times since I last saw  
her—having resided in California, and now being at her mothers  
separated from her last husband—After tea I walked out to  
Dallam's

Monday 24 Pleasant day, but the weather quite cool for  
season of the year—At work in office

Tuesday—Augt 25 1857 Cool, but pleasant. At work in  
office

Wednesday 26 Warmer than for some days past. At work  
in office

Thursday 27 Fine warm day. At work in office. Selden  
Gale, Dr Bunce & Rev Mr Bailey of Galesburg came down to  
see me to day, to consult upon the propriety of Mr Bayley  
accepting a temporary professorship at the hands of the Execu-  
tive Committee. My opinion was against it for the reason that  
Blanchard wants him there for his own protection, and his party  
will hereafter allege that they were to have the Presidency—  
to which I will never consent. But Selden Gale urged some  
reasons in favour of acceptance, which had weight and I yielded  
Mrs Gatchell to tea with us

Friday Augt 28 1857 Pleasant day—At work in office—  
Mrs B, Jake, Emma and myself took tea at Mr Palmers

Saturday 29 Fine day, but cool. At work in office in forenoon—Mr Vale of Knoxville, and Mr Comstock of Conn: dined with us. After dinner Mr Bushnell and myself went out in Eighth street to look at lots west of Cox's

Sunday 30 At Church in morning—Whilst at Church brother Marcus arrived—having come up on St Louis packet—

In the afternoon he and I, and Emma walked out to Esqr Asbury's—Alice having been with us to dinner.

Quincy &  
Burlington

Monday Augt 31 1857 Very fine day—bright and warm—Asbury, Bushnell, brother Marcus & myself spent the forenoon riding round the City. They all dined with me, Mrs Bushnell & Mrs & Miss Asbury joining us

Tuesday Sept 1 At 5 this morning, brother Marcus, Emma & I took the cars, for Burlington on a visit to brother Milton, and arrived there at 12. Very warm, fine day—In afternoon all took a ride over the City

Wednesday Sept 2 At brother Miltons in Burlington—At 3 P. M. Emma and I took leave of them all, and took the cars for home where we arrived at 11 at night. Brother Marcus expects to start home by way of Chicago tomorrow—Fine warm day

Quincy.

Thursday Sept 3 1857 Warm, cloudy morning—After breakfast called on Mrs Black of Springfield, who was at the Quincy House, & took a walk with her. At 10 A M commenced raining and continued for an hour. At night Mrs B and I went to party at Asbury's—

Friday Sept 4. Mr & Mrs Black of Springfield at my house on a visit—Fine day—At work in office

Saty: Sept 5 After breakfast took a ride round Town with <sup>Sept</sup> Mrs Black—Cloudy warm morning, threatening rain, Drizzled a little and towards night became much colder At work in office

Quincy

Sunday Sept 6 1857 Pleasant day—At Westminster Church in the morning & at Mr Kings at night

Monday Sept 7 Fine day—At work in office

Tuesday Sept 8 Very fine warm day—At work in office in forenoon. Miss Duncan & others dined with us, and in afternoon Mrs B & self went to Mrs Nelsons and remained to tea

Wednesday 9 Very warm day. At work in office. Mrs Southack, Lots &c, dined with us In the afternoon Mr & Mrs Black & Mrs Southack took passage on a Steamer for home

Thursday 10 Very warm day. At work in office

Friday Sept 11 1857 Very warm day. At work in office. Mr & Mrs Cox took tea with us.

Saturday 12 Very warm. At work in office. Fine rain at night

Sunday 13 Warm & raining this morning—At Church in the morning—At night went to Mr Kings Church & heard Mr Harrington preach

Monday 14 Very fine day. At work in office. Miss Julia Duncan came to day on a visit.

Tuesday 15 Fine day—At work in office—Miss Duncan & Miss Tillson with us. Rev Mr Nevins of Warren & Rev Mr Bliss of Knox, also with us. Presbytery to meet to night. At night attended Church & heard Dr Candy preach

Wednesday Sept 16 1857 Rain last night & more today—Very warm Dr Candy, Mr Pillsbury & 6 or 7 other gentlemen to dinner

Thursday 17 Very warm. At work in office

Friday 18 Warm & cloudy, threatening rain—At work in office.

Saturday 19 Cold, cloudy drizzling day. At work in office

Sunday 20 Cold, cloudy day—At Church in the morning. In the evening Bushnell & myself at Thayers to consult with him about arranging his business in his present embarrassments—The stringency of the times compels him to suspension<sup>1</sup>

Monday Sept 21 1857 Cloudy, misty day, but not so cold as yesterday. At 8 O'clock Flagg, Thayer, Bushnell & myself had an interview in my Library relative to Thayers affairs—

<sup>1</sup>The effects of the panic of 1857 in Quincy are graphically indicated in the following diary entries.



Tuesday 22 Quite a pleasant day. At night a party at our house of about 70 persons Emma went yesterday to Augusta, with her father & sister on a visit to her uncle & family

Wednesday 23 Fine day—At work in office

Thursday 24 Fine day. At work in office. Mr & Mrs Dallam & Miss Austin to tea

Friday 25 Fine day. At work in office

Quincy

Saturday Sept 26 1857 Very fine day. At work in office. Emma came home to day from Augusta where she has been on a visit

Sunday Sept 27 Very warm morning, but became quite cool before night—Attended Mr Emery's Church in the morning, & the Baptist Church at night, where I heard their new preacher Mr Mantel—Think him a good man & pretty good preacher, but has not much force

Monday Sept 28 Fine, bright day, but cool enough for fire, morning & evening. Miss Julia Duncan left this morning

Banking House of Moore, Hollowbush & Co closed their doors to day—Thayer mortgaged all his property & suspended—The pecuniary distress is greater than I ever knew it

Quincy

Tuesday Sept 29 1857 Heavy run on Flagg & Savage yesterday, but they stood up to it. This morning a number of us gave a guaranty of their solvency which has had a tendency to restore confidence, and I think they will weather the storm.<sup>1</sup> Cool, cloudy day—At work in office. Went at night to party at Henry Bulls

Wednesday Sept 30 Pleasant day. At work in office

Quincy

Thursday Oct 1 1857 Fine day—at work in office

Friday Oct 2 Pleasant, but cool & cloudy—At work in office Mrs B & self went to party at Cox's at night—

Saturday Oct 3 Cloudy day, but pleasant for the season. Henry Bull & wife & Mrs Baldwins took tea with us

<sup>1</sup>Flagg and Savage suspended in November, 1857. *Quincy Whig* November 12, 1857.

Sunday Oct 4 At Church in the morning. Mr Umsted of Keokuk preached & went with us home to dinner. I was not out again

Monday Oct 5 Started at 5 this morning to Carthage to Court—Came by R R to Plymouth, where we breakfasted & then Grimshaw, Delano, Wheat, Warren & myself came on in hack Arrived here at noon & stopped at Artois Hamiltons. Rained last night & cloudy, rainy day

Carthage Tuesday Oct 6 1857 Bright pretty day—Attending Court.

Wednesday 7 Very fine day. Attending Court.

Thursday 8 Fine day. Attending Court—At night attended a fair gotten up by the ladies of the Presbyterian Church

Friday 9 Another fine day. Attending Court

Saturday 10 Beautiful day. At noon adjourned Court till Monday, and after dinner Grimshaw & I took the stage for Plymouth on our way home to spend the sabbath. Reached Plymouth about 4 p. m.—stopped at Wilson's tavern & took supper—I called to see Mrs Tibbetts—At 8 took the cars & reached home a little after 10—

incy & Carthage Sunday October 11 1857 On Thursday morning last there was quite a shock of an earthquake here. Mrs B says she was wakened by the rocking of the bed stead & rattling of the windows. We did not feel it at Carthage

Attended Church in the morning—Day cloudy but warm—

~~Mr Cox~~

Commenced raining before night & continued till sometime in the night

Anna Barrow came in on a visit—We have had no frost yet. Every thing green as in May. Grapes hanging in abundance on the vines, and tomatoes yet ripening in the garden—and I gathered to day, from the garden, a beautiful boquet of roses, verberna's, heliotropes &c fresh & fragrant as in June—Peaches are not yet gone—had plenty of them today—

incy & Carthage Monday Oct 12 1857 Mrs Browning had breakfast for us before day, and at 5 O'clock Mrs Capt Ford, who has been at our house for some days, took the cars, she for Buda, and I for

Plymouth on my way to Carthage to Court—Reached Plymouth at 7. and took the stage in company with Grimshaw Warren & others, for Carthage where we arrived to dinner Attending Court in the afternoon—The day has been beautiful

Tuesday 13 Fine day. Something cooler than last week, but bright & beautiful—Attending Court

Wednesday 14 Still bright. Attending Court in forenoon. In afternoon went down to Plymouth in the stage & took the cars to Galesburg, where I arrived at 9 O'clock & stopped at Mr Gales

Gales-  
burg

Thursday. Oct 15 1857 Here to attend a meeting of the board of trustees of Knox College. All the trustees in Town except Mr Stanley. In the forenoon Mr Blanchard's friends would not come in to the meeting. We numbered only twelve without them, lacking one of a quorum, & could do nothing but adjourn, which we did till 2 P. M. at which time we had an informal meeting. Mr Blanchard's friends brot forward a proposition to refer the difficulties to Rev Mr Kellog & Mr Thompson the Editor of the Independent, neither of whom are in any way connected with the College. This, of course, I resisted, and offered as a substitute for it a resolution declaring Dr Thompson of Buffaloe President of the College. This was stoutly opposed by the others, and after a good deal of discussion notwithstanding we could have passed it, being 12 to their 11, I withdrew it; and offered in lieu of it a resolution appointing John G. Sanburn Esqr, Rev S G Wright & W E Withrow Esqr a committee to correspond with gentlemen in reference to the Presidency & report to a meeting hereafter to be called. This carried off about half their forces—we passed it easily—then went into the meeting as a board & passed it with the vote of Mr Colton<sup>1</sup> alone against it—and after passing another resolution in relation to the vacant professorship, and another that hereafter we would sit with closed doors, we adjourned with the understanding that the man

Gales-  
burg

<sup>1</sup>Chauncey S. Colton, 1800-1885. Born in Pennsylvania; came to Galesburg, 1836; a director of Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, and a banker.

selected & recommended by the committee should be elected at the next meeting. The day has been very bleak—the first real fall day we have had—a N W storm which in the afternoon and at night was very strong—the wind “blew as twould blawn its last”, driving the rain furiously before it. I took the evening train down to Plymouth—’Twas an hour behind time, and I did not get down till 9 at night. The storm had ceased and the stars were out. Stopped at Sam Tibbetts & stayed all night.

Friday Oct 16 Bright, beautiful day, but something cooler than it has been. After breakfast took the stage to Carthage—Arrived to dinner, and in the afternoon attended Court

Saturday Oct 17 Gloomy, chilly autumn day—Attending Court—Have an unusually severe cold in my head.

Sunday Oct 18 1857. Went to Presbyterian & Methodist Churches in the morning, but no preaching at either. Rainy afternoon & night Several of us went to Scofields to tea

Monday Oct 19 Bright day, but cool—Attending Court—

Tuesday Oct 20 Heavy frost last night the first of the season. Up to this time everything has been as green as June—Ice this morning, but a lovely & a mild day Attending Court

Wednesday Oct 21 Frost again this morning, but mild, pleasant day. After dinner Grimshaw & I took the stage for Plymouth, & thence by R. R. home where we arrived at 10½ at night—Raining when we got home

Thursday Oct 22 1857 At home—cloudy, rainy autumn day.

Friday 23 At work in office—Misty, disagreeable day

Saturday 24 At work in office—Has cleared off, and is very fine weather, looking like Indian summer

Sunday 25 Beautiful day—Attended Church in morning—Mr McCandlish preached his last sermon to Westminster Church, his connection with it being dissolved. After tea I called at Dallams

Monday 26 Beautiful morning—Pleasant in forenoon—cloudy & threatning rain in afternoon Court Commenced to day

Quincy

Tuesday, Oct 27, 1857 Fine day—Attending Court

Wednesday 28 Do Do

Thursday 29 Do Do

Friday 30 Rev Mr Belden from Wheeling, with letter of introduce from Rev Mr Dodge called yesterday, and is staying with us to day—Fine weather—Attending Court

Saturday 31 Very fine day. At noon adjourned Court until Wednesday next. Rev Mr Mahan at my house Col & Mrs Richardson took tea with us

Quincy

Sunday, Nov 1 1857 Very beautiful day. Gathered boquet of roses & verbenas from the garden this morning

In forenoon went to church & heard Mr Belden preach a fine sermon. At night went with him & Mr Mahon to Mr Kings Church

Monday Nov 2 Beautiful day—At work in office—After dinner Rev Mr Belden left on the Packet for Muscatine

Tuesday Nov 3 Pleasant day—At work in office—Election for County officers takes place to day

Wednesday Nov 4 Fine day—Attending Court Napoleon Buford<sup>1</sup> of Rock Island came to tea, & spent the evening

Quincy

Thursday Nov 5 1857 Fine day—Attending Court—Thunder, lightning & rain last night

Friday Nov 6 Cloudy & raining some in afternoon—Looks like Nov: Attending Court—Rained heavily at night & high wind before day

Saturday Nov 7 Cloudy, rainy, disagreeable day—Attending Court

Sunday Nov 8 Took medicine last night & did not go out to day

Monday Nov 9. Commenced the trial of James F Gyles for robbery of express office. Rev Mr Mahon left this afternoon

<sup>1</sup>Napoleon Bonaparte Buford, 1807-1883. Born in Kentucky; graduate of West Point; served in the regular army for a time; banker and iron founder at Rock Island; in 1857 president of Rock Island and Peoria Railroad; entered the Civil War as colonel, rising to the rank of brevet major general; inspector of the Union Pacific Railroad, 1867-1869.



quincy

Tuesday Nov 10 1857 A few flakes of snow to day—the first of the season—progressing with Gyles trial

Wednesday Nov 11 Cloudy & cool—raining some—proceeding with Trial

Thursday Nov 12 Proceeding with trial. Concluded just at night—Jury out 15 minutes & returned verdict of not guilty—I defended

Friday Nov 13 Froze hard last night but bright, beautiful day Attending Court—Judge Sibley & Grimshaw with me to tea

Saturday Nov 14 Bright day, but quite cold Attending Court Rev Mr Pillsbury of Macomb came to our house to day

quincy

Sunday Nov 15 1857. Quite a cold day. Attended Church in the morning and heard Mr Pillsbury preach. Mrs Ford & Capt Artus<sup>1</sup> called at night.

Monday Nov 16 Ground just covered over with snow this morning, but not cold—all gone before night Attending Court Miss Flora Nelson came to stay all night

Tuesday 17. Nov Bright & pleasant in forenoon—Cloudy in afternoon Attending Court—Planted roses, holly hocks & Chrysanthum Mr Nelson, Miss Rose & Miss Flora to dinner

Wednesday Nov 18 Cloudy & raining most of the day—Wind very heavy at night—Attending Court

quincy

Thursday Nov 19 1857 Heavy gale prevailing all night last night—Rained in fore part of night, but turned cold & froze hard before morning—Very cold day. Attending Court—

Friday Nov 20 Very cold—Severe winter, but cleared off in afternoon, and has become milder Attending Court

Miss Flora Nelson went home after dinner—her brother in law Mr Williams having died Wednesday night suddenly—Took tea at Rev Mr Kings, with Rev Dr Thompson<sup>2</sup> of Buffaloe & Dr Eddy<sup>3</sup> of Chicago

<sup>1</sup>Joseph Artus, 1796-1879. Born in Kentucky; steamboat owner and captain; commission merchant; interested in Flagg and Savage bank.

<sup>2</sup>Mentioned above for president of Knox College.

<sup>3</sup>Thomas M. Eddy, 1823-1874. Methodist minister, editor and writer.

Saturday Nov 21 Warmer than yesterday Attending Court

Quincy

Sunday Nov 22 1857 Cold day. Attended Mr King's Church in the morning & heard Rev Dr Eddy of Chicago—Mrs Field & Miss Flora Nelson with us to dinner Snow fell most of the P M

Monday Nov 23 Snow an inch or so deep this morning & very cold—tho bright & sunny—Went to my office after 8 & frost on my coat collar when I got there Attending Court

Tuesday Nov 24 Very cold—River full of ice & navigation suspended. Attending Court

Wednesday Nov 25 Still very cold—Sunny & bright but scarcely thaws in the sunshine—Snow crisp under foot. Adjourned Court to day

Quincy

Thursday Nov 26 1857 Thanksgiving day—Bright and beautiful & much milder than it has been for a week past—At home Asbury & family, except Alice, dined with us

Friday Nov 27 Raining with a little sleet—disagreeable day. At work in office

Saturday Nov 28 Mild, cloudy day. At work in office Little hump backed Jonny came to my house to live to day

Sunday Nov 29 Raining this morning, but mild pleasant day, with rain again at night. Attended Mr Emery's Church in morning

Monday Nov 30 Fine mild day, & lovely moonlight night—At work in office Called at Dallams at night

Quincy

Tuesday Decr 1 1857 Bright, beautiful, mild day—At work in office Jno: Hodges & his wife took tea with us

Wednesday Decr 2 Another fine day. The river is open & boats have been running for several days—At work in office Mrs Dr Massey with us to tea

Thursday Decr 3 Cloudy & something colder than yesterday—At work in office. Mrs B & I took tea at Dr Nichols—Mrs Southack & son of Hannibal staid with us all night

Friday Decr 4 Cloudy, mild day—At work in office

Saturday Decr 5 Damp, misty, chilly day. At work in office

Quincy

Sunday Decr 6 1857 Mild, pretty day. Attended Church in morning—Mr Baker preached. At night went to Mr Kings Church & heard Rev Dr Baird give an account of the Berlin Conference

Monday Decr 7 Dark, drizzley day—raining in afternoon—At work in office—At night Mrs B & self attended lecture of Rev Dr Baird at Court House on India Very interesting

Tuesday Decr 8 Dark, rainy day—At work in office

Wednesday Decr 9 Something cooler than yesterday, but bright & beautiful At work in office

Thursday Decr 10 Hard frozen this morning, but beautiful day—At work in office. Mrs B & I took tea at Gilpins

Quincy

Friday Decr 11 1857 Beautiful day—At work in office

Saturday Decr 12 Very fine day. At work in office. Dr Joseph Warren, now of Oxford Ohio, for 15 years missionary in India, came to my house to day—<sup>1</sup>

Sunday Decr 13 Fine day—So mild overcoat not necessary. At church in the morning. Heard Dr Warren preach. At night he and I went to Mr Kings church

Monday Decr 14 Bright warm day. At work in office—At night went to Mr Emery's church & heard Dr Warren lecture on India

Tuesday Decr 15 Warm day. Cloudy At work in office

Quincy

Wednesday Decr 16, 1857 Still warm—At work in office

Thursday Decr 17 Cloudy & warm—At work in office—Dr & Mrs Massey with us to tea

Friday Decr 18. Warm, cloudy, misty day—At work in office

Saturday Decr 19 Something colder—A very little ice this morning—cloudy and looking like snow At work in office Dr Nichols & Mr Baker dined with us—Mr Browning, myself & Dr Warren took tea at Dr Massey's

Sunday Decr 20 Pleasant day. At Church in the morning. Dr Warren preached—Mrs Nelson & Miss Flora to dinner with us At night Dr Warren & I went to Mr Emerys church & heard Mr Foote preach

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Warren was pastor of Westminster Church for four years, 1858-1862.

Quincy Monday Decr 21 1857 At work in office—Virgil Ralston commenced reading in the office to day. Snow commenced falling before breakfast, and has continued without intermission all day, but has melted as it fell, and now at night not more than 2 inches on the ground

Tuesday Decr 22 At work in office. Tolerably cold—Snow an inch or two deep At night attended celebration of the landing of the pilgrims, at the Quincy House—Very large gathering—Took seats at the table at 8 O'clock and rose at 12—Time occupied after supper in toasts and speeches—Spoke myself for half an hour.

Rev Dr Warren, who is staying at my house, went with—Clear, beautiful night

Quincy Wednesday Decr 23 1857 Bright, mild day—thawing rapidly. At work in office Rev Dr Warren left to day for his home in Ohio, but is expected to return & take charge of the old school Presbyterian Church

Thursday Decr 24 Something cooler than yesterday, but a mild, beautiful day—At work in office

Friday Decr 25 Mild, pretty day—Mrs B, Emma, Jake & myself, Mr Williams & Grimshaw dined at Asburys—Returned home about 8 O'clock at night

Saturday Decr 26 Bright & pleasant, but colder than yesterday At work in office

Sunday Decr 27 Took medicine last night & not out to day—Mild & thawing rapidly

Quincy Monday Decr 28 1857 Mild, thawing day. At work in office. Mr James Matthews of Warsaw with us to dinner and all night

Tuesday Decr 29 Very foggy, damp morning—Mild day. At work in office

Wednesday 30 Pleasant day—At work in office

Thursday Decr 31 Something colder than yesterday ground being frozen, but still very pleasant At work in office—Delano & Milton Kimball dined with me

The winter has thus far been very mild—River still open and boats running

## 1858

incy Friday January 1 1858 Very fine day, mild & dry—Appropriated all the day from 10 A. M. to 8 P. M. to calling on my friends—Mrs B recvd company at home all day  
January 1

Saturday Jany 2 Looks like Indiana summer, but colder than yesterday. Still very fine winter weather In afternoon took the cars for Chicago—Mild, lovely weather—traveled all night

Sunday Jany 3 Reached Chicago just before day—Went to bed & slept till 10—Did not go out to day—Very mild & thawing at 8 Oclock at night when I went out to see a fire

Monday Jany 4. At the Briggs House. Working hard in Court all day—Still mild—side walks sloppy

ago Tuesday Jany 5 1858 At work in Court trying cases. To day took possession of room 28 Briggs House

After Court called on Misses Church & Tillson at Mr W H Brown's.<sup>1</sup>

Wednesday Jany 6 At work in Court. Still mild weather

Thursday Jany 7 Frozen this morning, and colder than yesterday—but pleasant winter weather At work in Court

Friday Jany 8 About as yesterday. At work in Court

Saturday Jany 9 Cloudy but not cold. At work in Court. Williams & Grover called at my room at night

ago Sunday Jany 10 1858 Dismal, misty day, with the wind from the East. In the morning went to Dr Rice's Church on the N. side, and heard him preach a fine sermon. After returning wrote to my wife, and read my bible—Did not go out again as it was still raining at night

<sup>1</sup>William H. Brown, 1796-1867. Born in Connecticut; came to Illinois, 1818; moved to Chicago, 1835; a projector of the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad.



Monday Jan'y 11 Dark, dismal, muddy day, but not cold. Not freezing

At night attended lecture by Rev Mr Hay, an escaped missionary from Allahabad—'Twas on the causes of the rebellion & quite interesting, tho' but a small audience—

Was at work in Court all day

Tuesday Jan'y 12 White frost this morning & beautiful day. At work in Court. At night went to Rev Mr Henrys, the members of his Church were calling and I availed myself of the occasion

Chicago Wednesday Jan'y 13 1858 Fine day—At work in Court

Thursday Jan'y 14 White frost & beautiful day—Towards night clouded up and became something cooler. Have got through with my business by continuing most of my cases, and expect to start home at 8 O'clock Late in afternoon called for a few minutes at Mr Wm H Brown's to see Miss Tilson & Miss Church Left Chicago at 8 & traveled all night—Commenced raining a little after midnight

Friday Jan'y 15 Raining this morning. At Galesburg before day and at home at noon. Rev Dr Warren at my house who has come to preach this winter to Westminster Church & will stay in my family till Spring

Quincy Saturday Jan'y 16, 1858 Something colder this morning—

~~Friday~~  
ground frozen—but there is not a particle of ice on either bay or river, and navigation is still as free as in June. Busy getting ready to go to Springfield on Monday Bright, sunny day

Sunday Jan'y 17 Very fine day. At Church in the morning  
6  
to hear Dr Warren—Not out again

Monday Jan'y 18 Bright & beautiful but something colder than yesterday At 2½ P M took the cars for Springfield by way of Peoria in company with Judge Skinner. Reached Chenoa, junction of the Oquawka & Peoria with the Chicago & Mississippi road at 1 A. M. and lay there 3½ hours waiting for the down train from Chicago

spring-  
eld Tuesday Jan'y 19 1858 Arrived here at 8 this morning and stopped at the American—Occupy No 28 a good, large room. Attending Court all day—very fine day

Wednesday Jan'y 20 Very beautiful day. Hard at work. At night called for a short time at Rev Dr Brown's and saw Dwight & his wife. The Dr not in & Mrs B. in Ky

Thursday Jan'y 21 Lovely day—so mild that fire is scarcely needed—Hard at work. At night attended party at Mrs Ulrics

Friday Jan'y 22 Very delightful day. There has been hardly a day this month when a overcoat has been necessary. I took a long walk since night in my common dress Coat, without any sense of cold

spring-  
eld Saturday Jan'y 23 1858 Arguing cases in Supreme Court. Some rain fell & afternoon—warm, heavy day—At night called at Dr Brown's for an hour

Sunday Jan'y 24. Rained considerably last night and still raining a little this morning. Went to Dr Brown's Church and heard him preach. At night raining considerably, but notwithstanding rain and mud I went with Mrs Black to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Church & heard their new preacher, Mr Jennings, deliver a most interesting discourse on Genesis and Geology—He is evidently a man of intellect and attainments, and his elocution more than usually good

Monday Jan'y 25 Rained all night last night, and raining this morning, but soon cleared off bright and warm as April At work in Court

spring-  
eld Tuesday Jan'y 26 1858 Attending Court. At night went to Representative Hall and heard a lecture from George D Prentice<sup>1</sup> on the tendency of American politics. His delivery cannot be said to be good, although not unpleasant—the lecture itself was highly interesting. I do not always take so desponding a view of the Country—but sometimes do.

After the lecture went to a small party at Mr Ridgley's

x x x

<sup>1</sup>George D. Prentice, 1802-1870. Born in Connecticut; graduated from Brown University, 1823; lawyer and editor, first in Connecticut, then in Kentucky; edited *Louisville Journal* and *Courier-Journal* from 1830; strongly Union in the Civil War.

Wednesday Jan'y 27 Bright, beautiful morning, just like Spring—So mild that it does not freeze even at nights—Called after night to see Miss Bettie Stuart & Miss Fanny Austin

x x x x x

Thursday Jan'y 28 Colder than it has been & cloudy—Snowed a little in the afternoon—Called at Dr Brown's after night

Spring-  
field  
& Carlin-  
ville

Friday, Jan'y 28 1858 The morning was cloudy, but the day turned out to be very beautiful. Being through in Supreme Court, and a case on trial in U S Court in which I was not engaged I went down to Carlinville to see Mrs Dr Grissom, and spent a very pleasant. Rev Mr Moore, Mr Fishback & others were there to dine with me, and Chestnut, Glass & some others to tea At 7 P. M. I took the cars and returned to Springfield

Saturday Jan'y 30 Cloudy, chilly day. Attending the U S Court—went to Mr Lambs to tea

Sunday Jan'y 31 Attended Dr Browns Church in the morning, and at night went with Mrs Black & heard another very interesting lecture from Mr Jennings on Genesis & Geology

Spring-  
field

Monday Feby 1 1858 Colder than it has been—ground frozen & snowing some in afternoon—At work in U S Court

Tuesday Feby 2 The ground just whitened with snow this morning, but it soon disappeared—Has been thawing all day—Attending Court. At night called at the Chenery House and spent an hour with Mrs Dodge x x x

Wednesday

Thursday Feby 3 Much colder than it has been—a tolerable sort of winter day—At work in U S Court At night attended a party here in the house, being a social gathering of the members of the third church

Thursday

Friday Feby 4 Good winter day—ground hard frozen. At work in U S Court. At night called at Mr David Browns, and at Lincolns

Spring-  
field

Friday Feby 5 1858 Pleasant day. Closed my business in the Federal Court to day—Am through in Supreme Court, and with the blessing of Providence hope to start home on Monday. At B S Edwards' to supper with the Judges & lawyers

Saturday Feby 6 A little snow on the ground this morning, but disappeared through the day—Damp & chilly—After tea called at Rev Dr Browns to see Mrs Brown, who reached home from Ky this morning

Sunday Feby 7 Pretty and pleasant day. Went to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Church in the morning, and heard Rev Mr Jennings preach—In afternoon called at Mr Owsleys to tell Miss Fanny Austin good bye, as I expect to start home tomorrow. At night went to 3<sup>rd</sup> church and heard Rev Mr Hay, a returned Missionary preach on missions in India

Spring-  
field

Monday Feby 8 1858 Good winter day—& now at noon snowing a little. Have called and taken leave of them at Dr Browns, and now ready to start home at 1 O'clock. Took the cars for home by way of Peoria & Galesburg—Mrs Powell & Mrs Price in company on their way to Peoria & Mrs Sheldon to Quincy, & Wm Brown & wife, Judge Lockwood<sup>1</sup> & daughter & Mrs Grimsley for Chicago. At Bloomington Gov Mattison & two little daughters & Miss Hubbard joined us for Quincy. Commenced snowing about the time we left Springfield and continued to fall heavily till we reached Galesburg, when it was 5 or 6 inches deep, and compact. Arrived at Galesburg at 11 at night. Judge Skinner & I stopped at the Bancroft House—the rest of our Company went to another hotel

Quincy

Tuesday Feby 9 1858 Snow from 6 to 9 inches deep—At 6 Feby A. M. took the cars for Quincy, and arrived at home at 12. Found all well

Wednesday Feby 10 Coldest morning we have had since Nov. Ice accumulating rapidly, and navigation will now be suspended. It has continued open to this time. Bright day, and fine sleighing

Thursday Feby 11. Not so cold as yesterday, but good winter—thaws very little in the sun—At work in office

<sup>1</sup>Samuel D. Lockwood, 1789-1874. Born in New York; came to Illinois, 1818; held various state offices and was justice of the Supreme Court, 1825-1848.

Friday Feby 12 Not so cold as yesterday. At work in office—Margaret came to live with us to day

Saturday Feby 13 Several inches additional snow this morning & still falling—Not cold, but pleasant winter—At work in office

Quincy

Sunday—Feby 14. 1858 Fine winter day. At Westminster Church in the morning. At night went with Dr Warren to Mr Emery's Church.

Monday Feby 15 Cloudy, cold morning. Fine winter weather. At work in office. In afternoon Mrs B. drove out to Cox's in sleigh—I walked out to supper, and drove back at 10 O'clock at night

Tuesday Feby 16 Cold, substantial winter. Snowing a little this morning. At work in office

Wednesday Feby 17—Thawing a little, but good winter still—At work in office

Thursday Feby 18 No change in weather—At work in office

Friday Feby 19 A little additional snow this morning At work in office

Quincy

Saturday Feby 20 1858 Cold, frosty morning, having been very clear last night Bright, sunny day—thawing rapidly—Mrs B. out at Cox's to dinner

Sunday Feby 21 Very cold—Most disagreeable day of the season. Attended Church in morning. At night went to Mr Emery's Church where Dr Warren preached

Monday Feby 22 Cold day—At work in office—Just before 10 O'clock at night Miss Jinnie Johnston of Peoria arrived on a visit

Tuesday Feby 23 Bright & milder than yesterday At work in office

Wednesday Feby 24 Fine day—thawing rapidly—At night Mrs B, Miss Jennie Johnston & myself went to festival of Methodist Church in Melrose. Jerry Parsons took us out in two horse wagon & brot us back at midnight. Had pleasant time—large crowd—I made a chunk of a speech.



Quincy

Thursday Feby 25 1858 Very fine day—Thawing rapidly—  
At work in office At night heard Rev Mr Pierpont recite his  
poem the Golden Calf, at the Court House Jennie Johnston went  
with me.

Friday Feby 26 Warm as Spring—thawing fast—At work  
in office

Saturday Feby 27 Something colder than yesterday, and a  
little cloudy, but still thawing. At work in office getting ready to  
go to Carthage Monday At night attended at Court House and  
heard Rev Mr Pierpont deliver his poem "The Scholar's Hope".  
A very fine thing—Snowing

Sunday Feby 28 Four or five inches snow fell last night—  
Day sunny & not very cold tho' wind from North Took medicine  
last night & not out to day

Carthage

Monday March 1 1858 Cold day—Snow crisp under foot—  
At 2½ P M Grimshaw, Dr Warren & myself took the cars for  
Plymouth on our way to Carthage Took supper at Wilsons  
tavern and got him to send us on in a two horse covered carriage  
Half past six in the evening when we left Plymouth & half past  
11 at night when we reached Carthage—having been lost awhile  
on the prairie Stopped at Artois Hamilton's. Dr Warren staid  
all night with me

Tuesday March 2, 1858 Still very cold—thawing but little  
through the day & freezing hard at night. Attending Court. In  
the evening heard an excellent lecture from Dr Warren at the  
Presbyterian Church on the philosophy of Hindooism

Carthage

Wednesday March 3 1858 Very cold last night and this  
morning, tho' moderated at night—Attending Court

Thursday March 4 Milder than yesterday—Attending Court.  
At night went to presbyterian Church and heard very interesting  
lecture from Dr Warren on the Sepoy insurrection

Friday March 5 Very cold last night & to day—Attending  
Court—

Saturday March 6 A little additional snow on the ground  
this morning. Very solid winter—Attending Court

Sunday March 7 Something milder than it has been—Attended Church morning and evening & heard Mr Swann preach—Met Margaret Thome, now Mrs Buckner, at Church—Had not seen her for 25 yrs or more

Carthage Monday March 8 1858 Cloudy & not very cold. Attending Court. At night held Republican meeting at the Court House & passed resolutions. Grimshaw & I addressed the meeting. I spoke over an hour<sup>1</sup>

Tuesday March 9 Sunny, pretty day, and quite mild tho wind N W Attending Court

Wednesday March 10 Fine Spring day—wind from the South & thawing rapidly. In afternoon not being engaged in Court took a horse & rode out to Dr Bonde's, and spent an hour with Mrs Buckner, formerly Margaret Thome

Thursday March 11 Something cooler than yesterday Wind NW—cloudy, but thawing, and giving promise of Spring—Was large white frost this morning

Carthage Friday March 12 1858 Big white frost this morning—Mild, pretty spring day Attending Court

Saturday March 13 Got through with business in Court to day and adjourned after night—Has rained a little this afternoon—Mild & wind from South

Sunday March 14 Fine warm Spring day. After breakfast Grimshaw, Wheat, Sibley, True, Geo: Rogers and myself started in Hamiltons wagon, with four horses on for Hamilton, on our way home. Arrived there about 12 o'clock. Grimshaw, Wheat & myself passed on to the landing for the purpose of crossing over to Keokuk, but the wind was high and we had to remain on the bank of the river till 4 p. m. before we could cross. We then went over to Keokuk and stopped at the Galt House

Keokuk &  
Quincy

After tea I called to see Mrs Baldwin, and went with her and her husband to the Congregational Church, and heard a revivalist, Mr Avery, preach for an hour and a half. Rained while we were at Church, and all got in the mud going home. Returned to the

<sup>1</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, March 11, 1858, reported that Browning spoke with more than his usual eloquence.

hotel & found Orville O'B waiting for me—Grimshaw, Wheat & I went to his office and sat a while—

Monday March 15 At 7 O'clock this morning took the Steamer Des Moines for home, where we arrived at 12½ Fine, warm Spring day—Uncovered my tulips, hyacinths &c and found them growing finely. Found Peter & William taking down the old cabin. Commenced raining just before night

Tuesday March 16, 1858 Raining most of the day, and very warm—Have not needed fire for several days. Crocus in bloom At work in office

Wednesday March 17. Windy, March like weather & much cooler than yesterday At work in office

Thursday March 18—Bright, beautiful spring day—At work in office

Friday March 19 Fine day—too warm for fire—At work in office—Thunder storm and rain during the night

Saturday March 20 Rained heavily last night, and raining some this morning—Warm, growing weather—No fire needed—At work in office

Sunday March 21 1858 Something cooler to day—fire very comfortable—Attended Church in the morning—afternoon Miss Jennie Johnston, Emma & I took walk out 8<sup>th</sup> street to opposite Cox's, and back on 5<sup>th</sup> Evening very mild & beautiful

At night Miss Jennie and I went to Mr Kings Church

Monday, March 22 Cloudy & cool, but not freezing—Circuit Court to commence to day—Judge arrived on the Packet in the afternoon, and held Court

Tuesday March 23 Beautiful day—Attending Court—Mrs B. & self, Miss Jennie, Dr Warren & Jake at Mr Kingmans to tea

Wednesday March 24 Fine day. Attending Court—Rained just after night & cleared off warm & beautiful—Mr & Mr Stewart, Mrs McCann & Mrs Hall to tea

Thursday March 25 1858 Delightful morning, & fine warm day. Vegetation coming forward rapidly—Crocuses have been in bloom 5 or 6 days, and elm leaves beginning to unfold

Friday March 26 Another warm, beautiful morning, and very warm day—All of us out at Henry Bulls to tea At work in Court

Saturday March 27 Cloudy, & something cooler than yesterday—Iris blossoms out this morning

Attending Court

Sunday March 28 Fine day—At Church in morning—At night Miss Jennie & I went to 4<sup>th</sup> St Baptist Church to hear Fuller (the youthful Spurgeon).<sup>1</sup> I was a poor preach—disjointed rhapsody—without much of argument, and with no eloquence

Quincy

Monday March 29 1858—Bright, but something cooler—Hyacinths in bloom to day—Attending Court

Tuesday March 30 Cloudy & a little cool, but good Spring weather Attending Court—Mrs B & I & Dr Warren took tea at Mr Palmers

Wednesday March 31—Rained a little last night, & a little this morning—Cloudy day—Attending Court.

Thursday Apl 1 Bright, beautiful morning and pleasant day. Attending Court—Republican meeting at Court House at night Attended & made speech

Friday Apl. 2 Fine day—Attending Court—Mrs B & self, Miss Jennie, Dr Warren, Jake & Emma, all took tea at Dr Massey's

Quincy

Saturday, Apl. 3, 1858 Fine, warm day, but a little windy. No Court to day—Judge gone home. I at home trimming rose bushes—Set out some ever greens, peaches, quinces &c. Cherry trees in bloom

Sunday Apl 4 Bright, but much cooler than yesterday—Some fire necessary—At Westminster Church in morning—At night Jennie & I went to Mr Emery's church, where Dr Warren preached

Monday Apl. 5. Cloudy & cool—Not cold enough to freeze but fire very comfortable, and much cooler than last week Early

<sup>1</sup>The Reverend J. B. Fuller, sixteen years old. *Quincy Whig*, March 13, 1858.

cherry, plumb and pear trees, in bloom Attending Court Quite cool at night

Quincy Tuesday, Apl 6 1858 Pretty stiff frost this morning—and day tolerably cool—Attending Court—at night had party of about fifty persons, on Miss Jennie's account—Commenced raining about 1 O'clock at night & continued till day—~~raining this morning~~

Wednesday Apl 7. Raining, and continued to rain thro the day. Attending Court—

Thursday Apl. 8 Fine day—Cleared off warm—Attending Court

Friday Apl. 9. Cloudy and a little cool—Attending Court

Saturday Apl. 10 Took medicine last night & confined to my bed to day—threatened with chill—Mr & Mrs Butler of Payson at our house

Quincy Sunday Apl 11. 1858 Fine day—Under operation of medicine and not out Fine day—Tulips in bloom

Monday Apl. 12 Cloudy & raining occasionally Jake Caldwell went to day to board at St. Charles—Attending Court. Had Asparagus for dinner

Tuesday Apl 13 Snowed heavily this morning, but melted fast as it fell—Dr Warren left this p. m. for Ohio, to bring his family. Attending Court

Wednesday Apl. 14 Cloudy, but not cold enough to freeze, tho cool—Attending Court Dandelions in bloom

Thursday Apl 15 Attending court Very pleasant day

Quincy Friday Apl 16, 1858 Pleasant day, but a little cool—Attending Court

Saturday Apl 17 Cloudy & cool—Adjourned Court just before dinner till court in course—Republican meeting at Court house at night<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Browning presided at the meeting; Grimshaw, Prentiss, and Jonas addressed it. Two German speeches were made. *Quincy Whig*, April 19, 1858.



Sunday Apl. 18 Heavy rain last night. and rain again to day  
 Attended Mr Kings church in the morning—Mr Manton preached  
 At 2 p. m. at Westminster where Mr Emery preached

Monday Apl 19 Heavy rain last night, but the sun is out  
 this morning, and quite warm Has been a very warm day—  
 Municipal election—Pitman Dem: elected Mayor—Welling Rep:  
 elected Marshall Dr Massey & family with us at night—they  
 intend starting to Kansas tomorrow

Quincy

Tuesday Apl. 20 1858 Rained heavily last night, and raining  
 this morning—Much cooler than yesterday Dr Massey & family  
 left on the packet to day for Kansas—At work in office

Wednesday Apl. 21 Bright, beautiful day. At work in of-  
 fice

Thursday Apl. 22 Cloudy, windy cool day—Mrs Cox to  
 dinner with us. At work in office

Friday Apl 23 Clear & cold last night & supposed to have  
 been some frost this morning

Bleak, cloudy day—At work in office

Saturday Apl. 24 Cloudy, & cold—Fires in doors & over  
 coats out necessary—Said to have been ice last night At work in  
 office

Quincy

Sunday, Apl. 25 1858 Cloudy, cold day—Commenced snow-  
 ing about noon—continued for several hours but melted as fast  
 as it fell At Mr Kings Church in morning—In afternoon at  
 Westminster where Rev Mr Andrews preached

Monday Apl. 26 Very heavy white frost this morning—  
 bright in forenoon, cloudy & cool in afternoon At work in  
 office

Tuesday Apl. 27 Bright, pleasant day—At work in office—  
 Miss Jennie has been out at Cox's since yesterday—Mrs B & I  
 were out to supper and returned at 10 o'clock at night

Wednesday Apl. 28 Bright and very warm day—Quite too  
 warm for fire, but windy At work in office

Gales-  
 burg

Thursday Apl 29 1858 At 2½ p. m. started to Galesburg  
 to attend meeting of the Trustees of Knox College Miss Jinnie

Johnston went with me on her way home to Peoria. At 7½ reached Galesburg—took supper at the depot, and she then took the cars home. Mr Pomeroy and I went to Mr Gales. Has been a very warm day—

Saturday Apl. 30 Trustees all present 24 in number—Met at 11 A M & after doing some business adjourned for dinner Met in afternoon and elected Rev Harvey Curtis D.D.<sup>1</sup> of Chicago President of the College by a vote of 13 against 11

Another very warm day, but rained in afternoon and became much cooler at night

Saturday May 1. 1858 Just after day this morning Mr Pomeroy & myself left Mr Gales, breakfasted at the depot, and at 5½ A. M. took the cars for home Arrived at 10½ Rained considerably last night, some to day & cloudy & threatening all day

Sunday May 2 Rained last night, & cloudy, drizzly & cool to day—Attended Mr Kings Church in the morning & Mr Emerys at night.

Monday May 3. Warmer than yesterday—A great deal of rain fell during the day—At work in office

Tuesday May 4 Cloudy, with occasional showers—Dr Warren & family consisted of Mrs Warren, Miss Margaret & Master Edward arrived to day—At work in office

Wednesday May 5 1858 Cloudy & threatening rain all day, but none falling At work in office—

Thursday May 6 Very cloudy day, but cleared off at night At work in office

Friday May 7. Sunny most of the day, and warm—At work in office At night called at Henry Bulls to see Mrs Agness Baldwin.

Saturday May 8 Warm day, but cloudy, and an occasional shower At work in office Jesse Dubois & wife & Grimshaw with us to supper

<sup>1</sup>Harvey Curtis, 1806-1862. Born in New York; graduate of Middlebury College and Princeton Theological Seminary; served as agent of Home Missionary Society for Ohio and Indiana, and pastor at Madison, Indiana, and Chicago.

Sunday May 9 At Westminster Church in morning & afternoon, and at Mr Emery's at night

Pleasant day

Quincy

Monday May 10 1858 Cloudy & rather cool day At work in office

Tuesday May 11 Bright, but very cool—Fire necessary all day At work in office

Wednesday May 12 Pleasant day—At work in office

Thursday May 13 Very warm day—Yellow & Scotch roses in bloom—At work in office

Friday May 14 Very warm—Rain in afternoon At work in office Mrs B & I at Cox's to supper—Turned quite cool in the evening

Saturday May 15 Cloudy, cool day—Cold enough for overcoats & fires Rained in afternoon—At work in office

Quincy

Sunday May 16. 1858 Rained heavily all night, and raining this morning Quite cool day. At Church in the morning—after tea called at Dallam's & Amos Greens<sup>1</sup>

Monday May 17. Cloudy cool day—Fires very necessary—At work in office

Tuesday May 18 Bright day & pleasant out, but cool enough in doors for fire—At work in office Mrs B & I took tea at Col Richardsons with some friends

Wednesday May 19 Pleasant but fires necessary At work in office—Had Republican meeting to day & appointed delegates to State Convention at Springfield

Quincy

Thursday May 20 1858 Bright morning, but cloudy afternoon cool day—At work in office. At night went to party at Quincy House given by Grimshaw & others, and passed very pleasant evening

Friday May 21 Cloudy & raining occasionally At work in office

Saturday May 22 Cloudy, cool day—raining at intervals—At work in office—Mr James Matthews of Warsaw came on visit

<sup>1</sup>Amos Green. Born in Pennsylvania, 1815; came to Quincy 1836; railroad official and lumberman.

Sunday May 23.<sup>1</sup> Heavy rain, thunder and lightning through the night which continued till 9 this morning. At Church in the morning—Walked home with Mrs Henry Bull in p. m. and at Mr Kings Church at night where Dr Warren preached

Monday, May 24, 1858 Rained last night and raining heavily this morning—Town full of Germans who have assembled here for a Singing Convention

Tuesday May 25 Rained last night & heavily this forenoon—At work in office—Dr & Mr Warren, Dr Fishback of Ia: & Mr Mayo of Ohio, took tea with us.

Wednesday May 26 Fine, bright morning & warmest of the season. At work in office

Thursday May 27. Bright, beautiful & very warm day—Mr Matthews left us to day—At work in office—

Friday May 28 Very warm—thunder, lightning & rain in forenoon At work in office

Saturday May 29. 1858 Very fine day. At work in office Dr Warren & family, Mr & Mrs Allen & Mr & Mrs Gould & to tea with us

Sunday May 30 Commenced raining about 7 A M & continued heavily till 10—and rained very heavily again from 4 to 5 P. M. At Church morning & p. m. Rev Mr Rankin of Buffaloe preached in P. M.

Monday May 31. At 5 A M took cars for Plymouth on way to Carthage, in company with Warren, Skinner, Marsh, Wheat, Grimshaw & Delano—breakfasted at Plymouth & came on to Carthage in 4 horse wagon—Some very bad mud holes—Arrived at 2 P. M. & stopped at Artois Hamilton's—The people against holding Court & adjourned till Court in course—Pleasant day

Tuesday June 1, 1858 Lovely morning—bright, cool, with indications of settled weather—At 11 A. M. Wheat, Delano & myself started home—Came in two horse wagon to Colmer at 8½

<sup>1</sup>May 26, 1858, the *Quincy Whig* denied that Browning had been at a theatrical exhibition at Quincy Garden on Sunday night. Apparently it was a Democratic festival at which his presence was reported.

P M took the cars for home, where I arrived at 11—Commenced raining before I got home

Wednesday June 2 Raining heavily all the forenoon—Mrs & Miss Simpson of Ky arrived on Packet at 2 O'clock

Thursday June 3 Very warm—At work in office

Friday June 4—Cooler than it was, but cloudy—Mrs Simpson quite sick—Had a large party at our house at night—Mrs S too unwell to be down—Fine evening

Quincy

Saturday, June 5. 1858 Cloudy & somewhat cool—At work in office preparing to leave for Springfield on Monday—

Sunday June 6 Clear, cloudless & beautiful day—At Church in the morning—At night went with Mrs & Miss Simpson to Mr Emery's Church

Monday June 7. About noon took the packet, City of Louisiana, for St Louis, on my way to Springfield. Mrs McQueen & Miss Dalzell of Keokuk, under my charge on their way to Jacksonville. Fine day & warm

Tuesday June 8 Reached St Louis before day—got breakfast aboard & then took packet to Alton, thence took the cars & arrived at Springfield at 2 P. M. At 6½ P. M. Mrs McQueen & Miss Dalzell went on to Jacksonville—Attended floral exhibition at State House at night. Warm day—stopped at American House

Spring-  
field

Wednesday June 9 1858 Rained a little last night, and has sprinkled a little to day, but not much—Warm fine summer Attending Court—Buchanan convention in session here to day

Thursday June 10 ~~Warm day occasionally raining a little—Attending Court.~~ Rained heavily last night, and raining through the day—Rail Roads greatly damaged, and Country flooded Cold, disagreeable weather Attending Court. At night attended Concert given by Halberg pianist—Vieuxtemps violinist, & Perring & Madame D'Augri vocalists. The performances were too artistic to be to my taste. It may have been fine music, but was not melody.

Friday June 11 Rained last night & very cold this morning—Fire & overcoats necessary Attending Court



Spring-  
d Saturday June 12 1858 Very cold, drizzly morning—wind & rain from N E. Fires absolutely necessary to comfort Had fire in Court room—Attending Court & arguing cases. Hatch, Grimshaw, myself & others took tea with Dubois

Sunday June 13 Rained last night, but the Sun has been shining most of the time to day—Attended Mr Jennings Church in the morning, and at night went with Mrs Brown to Dr Brown's Church

Monday June 14 Pleasant day—Attending Court—At night at a little party at Bunns—

Tuesday June 15 Fine warm day—Attending Court—Republican Convention to meet tomorrow & delegates arriving—At night had a small caucus for consultation at the Library, and directed me to draft resolutions

ring-  
d Wednesday June 16. 1858 Lovely day. Republican convention in session. Koerner President—Immense gathering—over a thousand delegates in attendance, and great harmony and enthusiasm. Nominated Miller for Treasurer, & Bateman<sup>1</sup> for superintendent of public instruction. I drafted the platform which was adopted without dissent<sup>2</sup>

Thursday June 17 Warm fine day, but quite a heavy shower in forenoon—Very lovely evening Attending Court x x x x x

Friday June 18. Very fine day—Bright & warm—Attending Court

<sup>1</sup>Newton Bateman, 1822-1897. Born in New Jersey; graduated Illinois College, 1843; college teacher; superintendent of public instruction, 1859-1863, 1865-1875; president of Knox College, 1875-1893.

<sup>2</sup>June 16, 1858, at Springfield was a memorable day, and it is hard to understand this brief and unsatisfactory entry. The Republican State Convention which met on this day at the capital adopted a resolution enthusiastically endorsing Lincoln as "the first and only choice of the Republicans of Illinois for the United States Senate," and in the evening Lincoln, in addressing the convention, delivered his memorable "house-divided-against-itself" speech. It is hard to believe that Browning failed to hear the speech and equally hard to explain his failure to make any record of it. The Republican state platform which Browning drafted denounced the Dred Scott decision, asserted the right and duty of Congress to prohibit slavery in the territories, and expressed approval of a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois declaring slavery to be the creature of local law and holding that property in persons was repugnant to the constitution of Illinois.

Saturday June 19 Another fine summer day—Attending Court After tea called on Mrs Bunn

Spring-  
field

Sunday June 20 1858 Fine summer day—Very warm & a brisk shower in afternoon Attended Dr Brown's church in the morning, and in the evening went with Mrs Black to Mr Jennings

Monday June 21 Very warm—Am through with business, and hope to start home in the morning. Mrs Dr Brown is to go with me x x x

Tuesday June 22 Between 6 & 7 Oclock this morning left Springfield for home via St. Louis Mrs Jno H. Brown with me. Rev Mr Jackson & Miss Mary Gibson, who were married this morning, in company. Reached St Louis about 1 p. m. & left at 7 p. m. on Jennie Deans for Quincy The day has been very bright & warm

Wednesday June 23 1858 Just below Clarksville when I rose at 5 o'clock this morning. The river is very full. All along the upper part of the levy in St Louis the water is in the houses. Opposite our packet landing it is just up to the kirbing of the side walk. Reached home at 1. p. m. in company with Mrs Jno. H. Brown. Found all well. Very warm day

Thursday June 24. At home, and at work in the office—Very warm day, but have had several fine showers of rain during the day

Friday June 25 Rained heavily last night and again this forenoon. Is very warm. At work in office. Mrs Brown, Mrs Browning Dr & Mrs Warren, myself & others went to Cox's to supper

Quincy

Saturday June 26. 1858 A very hot day—At work in office. Rained heavily in the afternoon

Sunday June 27 Very warm. At Church in the morning, but not out again—H. E. Dummer Esqr of Beardstown called after tea

Monday June 28 Fine, warm, summer day—After supper Mrs Brown Mrs Browning & self took a ride—After our return, and just at night, had quite a brisk shower

Tuesday June 29 Another very warm day Mrs Brown, Mrs Browning & self & Dr & Mrs Warren out at Asburys to supper

Wednesday June 30. 1858 Very warm day—Mr & Mrs Palmer, Dr Warren & family & Mr King with us to tea

\*Thursday July 1. 1858<sup>1</sup> One of the warmest days of the season, but a fine breeze circulating. Mrs Brown left us to day at one O'clock on Steamer Jennie Deans, on her way home to Springfield

Friday July 2 Rained very heavily this morning just before day—Warm day, but cloudy & breezy

\*Saturday July 3. Cloudy & warm, but cooler than yesterday

Sunday July 4 As lovely a day as ever shone. Attended Dr Warrens Church in the morning & afternoon & Mr Emory's at night

Monday, July 5 1858 A very lovely day—Observed as the 4<sup>th</sup>—Ceremonies on Washington Square—Duff, a theatrical man, read the declaration of Independence, and did it abominably—Calvin A Warren delivered the address which I did not hear, not expecting it to be worth hearing—I expect to start to Chicago tomorrow, & have spent most of the day at home—\*Rev Mr Chase of Macomb with us all night

Tuesday July 6. Another delightful day. I expected to start to Chicago but did not, and have spent the day, chiefly at home—After supper Mrs B & self called at Dallam's and at Asbury's, I expect to start to Chicago tomorrow

Wednesday July 7. 1858 At 5 O'clock this morning took the cars for Chicago—Dined at Mendota & reached Chicago at 6 p. m. Am at the Brigg's House & fairly settled in No 9. The day has been very fine—and not oppressively hot.

<sup>1</sup>July 1, 1858, to December 30, 1860, is in a book bound in law-calf-colored leather, pages 4¼ by 7¼ inches, with ledger ruling in blue and red. There are 338 pages, the last sixteen not being used.

Inside the back cover is written:

Political appointments  
 Augt 25—Stones Prairie  
 Sept 1. Mendon  
 " 8. Jacksonville  
 " 26. Vermont

Thursday July 8 Fine day—Attending Court

Friday July 9. Fine day—Very warm—attending Court—Large demonstration at the Tremont at night in honor of Douglass arrival

Saturday July 10 Something cooler—Attending Court—Very large Republican meeting at Tremont House at night to hear a speech from Lincoln—When he was through I was called for loudly & long, but did not appear

Chicago

Sunday July 11. 1858 Cloudy, cool day—East wind & mist. Winter clothing necessary Attended Mr Henry's Church in the morning & evening After tea called to see Mrs Menafee

\*Monday July 12 Delightful day—Cool & pleasant. Attending Court—Made an elaborate argument on construction of the limitation law of 1839 Lincoln & I took tea with Guerdon S. Hubbard<sup>1</sup>—Found Mrs H. a more than usually sprightly & vivacious and agreeable woman

\*Tuesday July 13 Bright day, but very cool—Attending Court

Chicago

Wednesday July 14, 1858 Cool, pleasant day—Attending Court

Thursday July 15 Warmer than for some days past—Some rain in afternoon. Attending Court—took tea with Mrs Menafee at Boardman's at corner of Clark & Harrison streets.

\*Friday July 16 Quite warm & raining during the forenoon—Attending Court. Williams, Grimshaw, Henderson & myself dined at Judds<sup>2</sup>

Saturday July 17 Cool, cloudy day—At work in Court

\*Sunday July 18 Pleasant day. At Mr Henry's Church morning & evening. Rev Mr Cunningham of Indianapolis preached—A man of talent, but redundant fancy, and treads too nearly on the verge of rhapsody & rant

<sup>1</sup>Gurdon S. Hubbard, 1802-1886. Born in Vermont; employee of American Fur Company and independent fur trader; settled in Chicago, 1834, and one of its most prominent citizens to his death.

<sup>2</sup>Norman B. Judd, 1815-1878. Born in New York; came to Chicago as a lawyer, 1836; minister to Prussia, 1861-1865; member 40th and 41st congresses; first a Democrat, then a Republican; active friend of Lincoln.

Chicago \*Monday July 19. 1858 Very pleasant day. At work in Court—This evening Jno: Tillson & family, Jo: Rowland & family & Mrs Jas T Baker arrived from Quincy, on their way to Mackinaw

Tuesday, July 20 Warm day. At work in Court. This evening Tillson, Rowland &c left on propellor Ontonagon for Mackinaw

Wednesday July 21 Pleasant day. At work in Court

Thursday July 22 Fine day. At work in Court

Friday July 23 Cool day, and now at night almost cold enough for fire. At work in Court Buchanan men have a meeting tonight but I am too busy to attend

Chicago \*Saturday July 24, 1858 Very fine day—At work in Court

Sunday July 25 Pleasant day—Attended Mr Henry's Church at corner of Wabash Avenue & Congress street in the morning He announced that that was the last sermon he would ever preach in that house, and I was not at church in the evening

Monday July 26 Quite warm day. Attending Court—Took tea at Rev Mr Henry's.

Tuesday July 27 Pleasant day—Attending Court

\*Wednesday July 28 Warmest day we have had for a week or two—Attending Court W. D. McCann from Quincy, here to day—leaves to night

Chicago Thursday July 29, 1858 Quite warm day. At work in Court—After tea went with Mrs Riley to make call at Mr Kendalls

\*Friday July 30 One of the warmest days we have had—Attending Court

\*Saturday July 31. Another warm day. Attending Court—Rained last night, and commenced raining heavily again at 4 or 5 P. M. and continued all night

Sunday Augt 1 Raining this morning, and continued till 10 O'clock—Attended Mr Nesbits Church on the West side—Went



to Judds to tea, and then called on Mrs Menafee. Jouett has been very sick but is getting better

Chicago

Monday Augt 2. 1858 Very warm, and raining thro all the forenoon, and till the middle of the afternoon. Have closed my business in Court for the present, and expect to start home in the morning, via Peoria, when I hope to meet my dear wife, & where we will remain a few days with our friends, the Johnstons

\*Tuesday Augt 3 Left Chicago at 9 A. M. by the Rock Island Road—dined at Peoria junction, and came on upon the Bureau Valley road to Peoria where I arrived about 5 P. M. on a visit to Mr Johnston & family—Found Mrs Browning and Emma here, they having left Quincy this morning & reached here about noon—Very warm

\*Peoria

Wednesday August 4. 1858 With our friends—Mr Johnston was from home, but returned from Knoxville this afternoon—Very warm day—

Thursday Augt 5 A very warm day—After breakfast we took a ride around Town to look at it &c. All took tea at Mr Reynolds. †Heard today of the successful laying of the Atlantic Telegraph†

Friday Augt 6 Another very hot day. At 5 P M took leave of our friends, & took the cars for Knoxville where we arrived at 8½ and stopped at Dr Greenleaf's on a visit

\*Saturday Augt 7 Very warm—Immediately after dinner went to Galesburg on the cars, & stopped at the Bancroft House where we remained till 5½ P. M. when we took the cars for home and arrived safely at 10½

\*Quincy

Sunday Augt 8. 1858 We had intended remaining up the country some days longer but the weather became so hot we concluded to return home, and are glad of it At Church in the morning, but so very hot that there was none in the afternoon, and I was not out again

Monday Augt 9 Very warm—At home, and at work in the office

\*Tuesday Augt 10 Same as yesterday

Wednesday Augt 11 No change

Thursday Augt 12 Still hot—At work in office

Friday Augt 13. Hot as ever—At work in office

\*Quincy Saturday Augt 14. 1858 Very warm indeed. At work in office—Miss Caro Patterson, of Schuyler, came down from Warsaw, and dined with us—then took the cars for Mt. Sterling on her way home

\*Sunday Augt 15 Very lovely day. At Church in the morning. Dr Warren preached an eloquent & sublime sermon on the translation of Elijah

Monday Augt 16 Very fine day. At work in office Went to Cox's to tea, and returned with Mrs Anna Bull & Mrs Tillson at 11 O'clock

Tuesday Augt 17. Very fine day—Townsend Ward & Mrs Cox, Jo: Rowland & wife & Jo: Gilpin & wife with us to breakfast At work in office

\*Quincy Wednesday Augt 18 1858 Lovely day—Thunder, lightning & fine rain last night—At work in office Received to day the first telegraphic communication from the Queen to the President, and his reply, and are to celebrate the event tonight, by illuminating &<sup>e</sup> 1

Thursday Augt 19 Great change in the weather from hot to cool, being now very pleasant At work in office

Friday Augt 20 Cloudy & occasionally drizzling, and cool—At work in office At Esqr Keyes<sup>2</sup> to tea—Mrs Browning not well, and did not go

Saturday Augt 21 Cool, pleasant day—At work in office

\*Quincy Augt 22 1858 Disagreeably cool—At Church in the morning—At 3 P. M. at Mr Kings Church on the occasion of his brothers funeral—Mr McCandlish preached At night went with Miss Fanny Austin and Mrs Holmes to same church, and heard Mr Sturdivant Jr<sup>3</sup>—A very common place sermon

<sup>1</sup>Illumination was general in the United States. Artemus Ward has a comical account of the illumination in "Baldinsville."

<sup>2</sup>Willard Keyes, born in 1792 in Vermont. Settled in Quincy, 1824; died 1872.

<sup>3</sup>Julian M. Sturtevant, Jr., born 1834.

Monday Augt 23 Cold enough to make fire comfortable—Have some in my office. Mr D S Morrison to dinner with us—He expects to leave tomorrow to take up his residence in St Jo:

Tuesday Augt 24 Very cold morning—Fire in dining room & in office.

\*Wednesday Augt 25 Warmer than yesterday—Republican convention to nominate candidate for Congress meets at Augusta to day. I did not go up—having declined all solicitations to become a candidate<sup>1</sup>

Quincy Thursday, Augt 26. 1858 Commenced raining late yesterday after noon, and continued through the night, but bright and warm this morning.

The Republican convention held at Augusta yesterday, nominated Jackson Grimshaw Esqr for Congress, and Jno: Tillson Esqr for the Senate in this County & Brown Mrs Dr Bartlett, who has separated from her husband, and has been East for sometime returned to Quincy to day, and is stopping at my house—She comes back to be with her children. I went to Mrs Austin's to tea

Friday Augt 27 Rained some last night & cloudy & threatening this morning Has been growing cold all day, and now at night, is cold enough to make fire necessary to comfort

Quincy Saturday—Augt 28 1858 Almost cold enough for snow Fire absolutely necessary to comfort. At work in office

\*Sunday Augt 29 As lovely a day as ever shone—Just warm enough to be delightful—calm as a christian, and not a speck of cloud in all the blue ether above—Was not out today—Old Aunt Polly, our colored woman was very ill with dropsical affection. In the morning she was supposed to be dying, and as she required close attention all day I remained with her, and until 12 O'clock at night.

\*Monday Augt 30—Bright, pretty morning, but cold enough for fire through the day. After breakfast rode out to the Ceme-

<sup>1</sup>Lincoln was present at the convention. Browning consented to speak in each county in the district. *Quincy Whig*, August 26, 28, 1858.

tery with Bartlett the sexton & selected lots 118 & 119 in Block 14.

Quincy Tuesday Aug 31. 1858 Warm enough to do without fire—  
Rain in afternoon—At work in office

Wednesday Sept 1 A warm and very lovely day—At work in office

Thursday Sept 2 Very heavy thunder & rain last night, and raining most of the day. At work in office. Mrs Cox at our house all night watching with old Aunt Polly

Friday Sept 3 Pretty day, but quite cool. At work in office

Saturday Sept 4 Cool, but very pretty & pleasant day At work in office

Sunday Sept 5 Cloudy, cold, disagreeable day. We were watching all day with Aunt Polly who is still alive, tho' struggling with death, and have not been out

Quincy Monday Sept 6 1858 A very bright, beautiful, warm day—  
Have on linen clothes again—At work in office

Tuesday Sept 7 Another bright, warm, beautiful day. Old Aunt Polly, our colored woman, died this A. M. between 12 & 1 O'clock, and was buried in Woodland Cemetery at 4 P. M.

Wednesday Sept 8 Heavy rain last night & cloudy with occasional rain to day At work in office

Thursday Sept 9 Rained last night and again heavily at 2 P. M. At work in office

\*Friday Sept 10 Bright day, but very cool—Fire necessary—  
At work in office

Saturday Sept 11 Cold morning, but beautiful day At work in office

Quincy & Oquawka Sunday, Sept 12, 1858 Bright, pretty day, but quite cool—  
Fire comfortable. At church in the morning & afternoon.

Monday Sept 13 Took the cars at 5 A. M. on my way to Oquawka to attend Court. Grimshaw & Dallam along. I stopped at Galesburg on some business—They went on. I saw & talked with Cone about his suit in Supreme Court U. S. &

settled with Mecum—\*In the evening took the cars to Monmouth where I staid all night

Tuesday Sept 14 After breakfast took the cars and came to Oquawka Junction, and thence in a hack to Oquawka, where I arrived between 9 & 10 A. M., & stopped at Barne's hotel. After dinner Grimshaw, Republican candidate for Congress, addressed the people, & Skinner made a Buchanan speech at night.

Oquawka

Wednesday Sept 15 1858 Rained most of the night & heavily, but clear and cold to day. At night I addressed a large audience at the Court House on the political questions of the day—devoting most of my time to an argument to demonstrate the constitutional power of Congress to legislate for the Territories upon all subjects inclusive of slavery. Spoke for 3 hours, without losing the attention of my audience<sup>1</sup>

Thursday Sept 16 Clear, but quite cool—Troubled with dysenteric symptoms to day brought on, no doubt, by the fatigue of last night—Have been in bed all the afternoon, but now at night am measurably relieved

\*Oquawka  
& Macomb

Friday Sept 17, 1858 At 11 A. M. in company with George Harding & Mr Vigus went in Hack to Oquawka Junction. Got a very poor dinner at Mr Cooke's. The day was warm & bright, and having to wait an hour or two, for the cars I amused myself till the came, with a highly fossiliferous heap of mountain limestone which I found near by—Got some fine specimens of spirifer & productus.

At 2½ P M took the cars for Galesburg, and thence for Macomb, where I arrived at 7½ P. M. and stopped at the Randolph House

Macomb

Saturday Sept 18. Very fine day. After breakfast rode out with Mr Rowley of N Y to see his coal bed & stone quarry about a mile and a half from town. The stone is a very fine, white, compact sandstone, and so far as I could discover, unfossiliferous. But it exists in great abundance, in horizontal strata, and from which shafts & slabs of any given length and thickness may be obtained.

<sup>1</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, September 27, 1858, characterized the speech as brilliant. It was aimed at Morris.



A Republican convention was held here to day, and I am present by invitation to make a speech,<sup>1</sup> as is also, Hon Wm Kellogg of Fulton County.<sup>2</sup>

In the afternoon I addressed the assembled ladies & gentlemen for over three hours in the Court House yard, devoting most of my time to the establishment of the proposition that Congress possesses the unlimited power of legislation over the territories, inclusive of the subject of Slavery

Col Kellogg had an appointment to speak at Prairie City at night, and had to leave about the time I got through, and did not speak here. At 7½ p. m. I took the cars & reached home at 10½

Quincy

Sunday Sept 19. 1858 \*One of the most beautiful days of the season, and very warm At Dr Warrens Church in the morning, and Mr Emery's at night

Monday Sept 20 Beautiful day and warm—At work in office

\*Tuesday Sept 21 Very fine day—At work in office

Wednesday Sept 22 Another fine day. At work in office

Thursday Sept 23. Fine warm day—At work in office—The evening & night were very beautiful—Bright moonlight & balmy air. Attended party at McGinnes's

Quincy

Friday Sept 24. 1858 Cloudy, chilly, misty looking fall day. At work in office

\*Saturday Sept 25 Pretty day, but cool—At work in office

\*Sunday Sept 26 Beautiful day, but cool. At Church morning & afternoon—

\*Monday Sept 27. Very beautiful day, and quite warm—Hon Lyman Trumbull & Abram Jonas Esqr at my house to tea. At night Trumbull addressed a crowded audience at the Court House for 2½ hours on the engrossing political topics of the day—

Tuesday Sept 28 Fine warm day. At work in office

<sup>1</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, September 27, 1858, declared Browning's speech "no other man could have made on the occasion."

<sup>2</sup>William Kellogg. Born in Vermont, 1831; came to Illinois 1848; presidential elector on Republican ticket, 1856, 1860; served in the Civil War; 1865 settled in Louisiana, being United States senator, 1868-1872, 1877-1883; congressman, 1883-1885; governor, 1873-1877.

Quincy

Wednesday Sept 29, 1858 Beautiful day, but very warm—This is the first day of our fair, but I am not very well, having taken medicine last night, and have not been out

Thursday Sept 30 Very warm day—About 9 O'clock went with Mrs Bartlett & Emma & Mr Bushnells family in an omnibus to the fair. Mrs Browning at Mr Green's with sick child. I was not well, and being posted for a speech at night returned home about noon & kept my room.

In the afternoon had a very heavy rain. At night I met a large crowd at the Court House to address them on politics—spoke for about 1½ hour, but in so much pain I could not keep my feet & had to quit.<sup>1</sup>

Quincy

Friday Oct 1 1858 A very lovely day after the rain of yesterday. About noon went with Mrs Browning, Mrs Bartlett Emma & Johnny in a carriage to the fair and remained till 4 P. M.

Saturday Oct 2 Beautiful day & quite warm—At work in office Mrs B & self took tea at Dr Warrens

\*Sunday Oct 3 Very beautiful day, and very warm—Dressed in light summer clothes—At Church A M & P. M.

Monday Oct 4 At 5 A. M. took the cars for Plymouth on my way to Hancock Court. Took breakfast at Lawton's & then Grimshaw Warren, Wheat, Delano & myself came in a coach to Carthage where we arrived at 10½ A. M. & stopped at Artois Hamiltons. Cloudy, cold & raining

\*Carthage

Tuesday Oct 5 1858 Warm pleasant day—Attending Court—

Wednesday Oct 6 Rained quite heavily in the night—Warm, calm day, but gusty & becoming cooler at night Attending Court

Thursday Oct 7 Bright, but quite a cool day. Attending Court.

Friday Oct 8 Bright, pretty day, but quite cool—Attending Court

<sup>1</sup>Browning's speech was based on the assertion that the Republicans followed the line of the Revolution. *Quincy Whig*, October 2, 1858.

Saturday Oct 9 Heavy white frost this morning. The first of the season which has produced any visible effect

Very pleasant day. In afternoon took the stage to Plymouth, and thence went on the accomodation train home, where I arrived at 9 Oclock at night

Quincy &  
Carthage

Sunday October 10. 1858 Dark, rainy, chilly day—At Church in the forenoon—For sometime past I have been suffering very much with pain apparently in my right testicle when speaking, which recently has become more distinctly located in my groin. This p. m. I sent for Dr Ralston & consulted him, who after an examination pronounced it incipient hernia; recommended a truss, and prohibited any further political speech making this fall.

Monday Oct 11. Started from home at 5 Oclock this morning on the cars—breakfasted at Plymouth, and then came in a hack of Hotchkiss, with Warren Tom Durant, & Mr Larnegan of St Louis to Carthage—Arrived at 11 A. M. Douglass spoke here to day. About 2500 or 3000 people, and a very dull speech Cloudy, muddy day, but no rain

\*Carth-  
age

Tuesday October 12, 1858 Dark, cloudy day, with a little rain—Attending Court

Wednesday Oct 13 Bright day, mild & windy—Lincoln & Douglass speak at Quincy to day

\*Thursday Oct 14. Fine day—Attending Court

Friday Oct 15 Very fine day—Attending Court

Saturday Oct 16 Warm & smoky, looking like Indian Summer, and as if 'twould rain—Quite too warm for fire Attending Court

Sunday Oct 17 Another warm, fine day. Linen clothes comfortable Attended Mr Swan's Church morning and evening

Carthage

Monday Oct 18. 1858 Rainy, chilly day—Attending Court. At night addressed a meeting at the Court House for over two hours on politics.

Tuesday Oct 19 Warm, pleasant day—Attending Court—

Wednesday Oct 20 Rained last night—Pleasant through the day—but commenced raining about 5. P. M. Attending Court

\*Thursday Oct 21 After dinner left Carthage with Frank Marsh for Warsaw, where I have agreed to speak tonight—Reached there before sun down & stopped at John E Johnsons—Col Carpenter of Chicago was in Town, and his friends had an appointment for him to speak, and I gave way, but my friends would not consent until I promised to come next week

Warsaw  
& Quincy

Friday Oct 22, 1858 This morning took the Steamer City of Louisiana for home where I arrived about noon—Yesterday and to day have both been very lovely—Lincoln speaks at Carthage to day. Rev Mr Baker & sisters & Mrs Warren at my house to tea

Saturday Oct 23 At home and at work in office—Very fine day. Frank Minshall is here reading law—came during my absence about a week ago

\*Sunday Oct 24 Attended Church in the morning—Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Baker of Virginia preached—Not out again Commenced raining about 2 O'clock P. M. and continued into and through the night

Quincy

Monday Oct 25 1858 Dark, cloudy day, with occasional rain. Many of our citizens went to Macomb to attend Republican meeting—Court commenced here today—Col Carpenter of Chicago a Buchanan democrat took tea at my house, and made a political speech at the Court House at night

Tuesday Oct 26 Dark, cloudy day, drizzling a little—Attending Court

\*Wednesday Oct 27 Dark, gloomy, rainy day. Attending Court—Grimshaw, Republican candidate for Congress spoke at the Court House at night

Thursday Oct 28 Rain last night & rain to day—Attending Court. At night heard I N Morris make a miserable speech at the Court House—

Quincy

Friday Oct 29, 1858 Gloomy day with occasional rain—Attending Court

\*Saturday Oct 30 Dark, cloudy day, and cooler than it has been through the week—Attending Court. At 2 P M adjourned till Wednesday on account of approaching election

Sunday Oct 31 Very pleasant day. Went to Church in the morning with Miss Bettie Stuart and Miss Fanny Austin

At 2 P. M. Mrs B & I drove out to Mr Chapman's to the funeral of old Mrs Chapman

Quincy Monday Nov 1. 1858 Was raining when I woke this morning & has continued all day without the least intermission accompanied by cold East wind No Court—will not open again till after the election

At work in office

Had Republican meeting at City Hall at night, and although it was storming heavily, the Hall was crowded. I addressed them for an hour or more—Speeches were also made by Shaumburg, Jansen, Grimshaw, Prentiss and Jonas—

Tuesday Nov 2. Election going on—Raining all day without intermission. Everything passed off quietly—Gave Grimshaw a majority of 13, and Field for Sheriff 51—Rest of Republican Ticket beaten<sup>1</sup>

\*Quincy Wednesday Nov 3. 1858 Raining all day. Attending Court

Thursday Nov 4 Still raining—Attending Court—

\*Friday Nov 5 Attending Court—Raining

Saturday Nov 6 Attending Court—Raining—C B Lawrence & family got home from Europe to day, having been absent two years

Sunday Nov 7. Cloudy with a little rain Attended church A M & P. M. After night called at Mr Erskins to see Jim Riggs

\*Monday Nov 8 Cloudy with a little rain Attending Courts

\*Quincy Tuesday Nov 9, 1858 Just snow enough on the roofs of the houses this morning to be visible About noon the sun came out bright & warm, but clouded again before night—Attending Court.

<sup>1</sup>Isaac N. Morris was elected to Congress, polling 13,528 votes to 11,648 for Grimshaw and 504 for Jacob C. Davis.

In the election for the vacancy, Jacob C. Davis beat Thomas C. Sharp and J. B. Kyle, polling 12,212 to 8,182 and 2,826.



Wednesday Nov 10 Ground covered with snow, and falling fast, but not being cold enough to freeze it all disappeared before night. Attending Court

Thursday Nov 11. Very cloudy—but not actually raining—Attending Court

Friday Nov 12 Dark, rainy, disagreeable day. Attending Court

Saturday Nov 13 Turned cold last night. The ground is somewhat frozen, and the little ponds skimmed over with ice—but the sun is out and promising better weather

\*Quincy

Sunday Nov 14 1858 The forenoon tolerably pleasant—At Church in the forenoon. At 2½ P. M. attended the funeral of A. Mc. D. Erskine. The wind had shifted to the N.W. and a bitter storm of snow & rain prevailed till night. Cox & I rode out to the cemetery together, and suffered much with cold Alice Asbury at our house all night x x x

\*Monday Nov 15 Froze hard last night—first hard freeze of the season—The Sun is out brightly this morning, promising better weather. \*Attending Court

Tuesday Nov 16 Pleasant, bright day. Attending Court

Wednesday Nov 17 A little snow & rain mixed—Cold Attending Court

\*Quincy

Thursday Nov 18, 1858 Cold, cloudy day—Streets frozen hard. Attending Court

Friday Nov 19 Sun shining this morning, but quite cold. \*Attending Court

Saturday Nov 20 Snowing this morning with several inches on the ground—Mild day Attending Court. Mrs B, & I out at Cox's to supper—She went out in afternoon, and I walked out at night. Snow two or three inches deep—

Sunday Nov 21 Cloudy, winter day. At Church in morning & not out again Mr & Mrs Allen with us to dinner. This is the last day of preaching at the hall Will have no more services till they get in their new Church

Quincy

Monday—Nov 22. 1858 Cloudy, winter day. Attending Court

\*Tuesday Nov 23

Wednesday Nov 24 Same as above

Thursday Nov 25 Heavy fog this morning, but bright, beautiful, mild day over head. Very sloppy under foot. The roads are in worse condition than I ever knew them at this season of the year.

Thanksgiving day, but attended Court in the forenoon—Miss Alice Asbury, Jake Caldwell, Wm Shipley & Jas Bartlett with us to dinner. Asburys family, Dr Warren's family, and Mrs Humphrey spent the evening.

Friday Nov 26 Cloudy, sloppy day—Raining in the afternoon. Court adjourned to day till Court in Course—Dark, rainy night Party at Shermans, but did not go

Quincy

Saturday Nov 27, 1858 Very dark, cloudy day, threatening rain—At work in office

Sunday Nov 28. No service at old school Church to day—Went to Mr Kings in the morning & Mr Scofields at night—Dark, cloudy day with a little rain

\*Monday Nov 29 Something cooler than it has been—Clouds clearing away÷the sun breaking out occasionally and promising to become fair At work in office

\*Tuesday Nov 30 Pretty, pleasant day—At work in office.

In the evening Mrs B & I called to take leave of Mr & Mrs Lawrence who go tomorrow to Cleaveland

Quincy

Wednesday Decr 1, 1858 Cloudy—looks like snow. At work in office. At large party at Gilpins at night.

Thursday Decr 2. Very cloudy day—At work in office

Friday Decr 3 Snowed heavily this morning—At night about 2 inches on the ground, and tolerably cold. At work in office

\*Saturday Decr 4 Cold cloudy day. Small round snow falling all the P. M. At work in office

Sunday Decr 5 Sleeted last night, and everything glittering most beautifully in the sunlight this morning. Clear, pretty day but cold—Streets a glare of ice The old school Pres: church, in Hampshire street, being completed, was opened & dedicated

to day. Dr Warren preached A M & P. M. Dedication at 2 O'clock P. M. and church full to overflowing

\*Quincy Monday Decr 6. 1858 Cold & cloudy—Scarcely softens any at all—At work in office

\*Tuesday Decr 7 Bright day, but very cold. Thaws a very little in the sun, & freezes in the shade—At work in office

Wednesday Decr 8. Bright, but cold day—At work in office

Thursday Decr 9 Bright pretty day, and milder than it has been. At work in office.

Friday Decr 10 Bright morning, but clouded up at noon—Thawing considerably At work in office

Saturday Decr 11. Fine pleasant day—Thawing At 1 O'clock P. M. had meeting of trustees of Westminster Church, at the church for business

Quincy Sunday Decr 12. 1858 Warm, with flying clouds—thawing rapidly—At church A M & P. M. Misses Fanny & Flora Nelson have been at our house since Friday. Mr & Mrs Allen, & some others to dinner with us.

Monday Decr 13. Turned cold in the night & froze—Bright morning & not very cold At work in office

Tuesday Decr 14 Quite cold—hard frozen—Sleeting a little & snowing a little—At work in office

Wednesday Decr 15. Bright, pretty day, thawing considerably in the sun. At work in office. Mrs Cox & Mrs Gilpin dined with us

Thursday Decr 16 Beautiful day, and mild At work in office

Quincy Friday Decr 17. 1858 Fine, mild day, and beautiful night. At work in office. At night Mrs B and I went, with other friends, to party at Mr Rices—Went out in Omnibus & returned same way at 1. O'clock

Saturday Decr 18. Very beautiful day & mild. Like Indian Summer. At work in office

Sunday Decr 19 Mild day, thawing and very sloppy—At church A. M. & P. M.

Monday Decr 20 Foggy, rainy, dismal day. At work in office

Tuesday Decr 21. Very bright, pretty day. At work in office

Wednesday Decr 22 Fine day—At work in office. Dr. Warren, & Rev Mr Mathews of Monmouth dined with us.

Quincy

Thursday Decr 23, 1858 Bright day, but much colder than it has been—Frozen pretty hard this morning—At work in office  
\*At night Mrs B. & Emma—Alice Asbury & myself attended the wedding of Geo: Ladd & Miss Jennie Pomeroy—Large crowd in attendance—Bright, beautiful night. x x x

Friday Decr 24 Fine, bright day. At work in office.

Saturday Decr 25. Christmast day. Mild & pleasant—Mrs B & I & Emma dined at Esqr Asbury's—Mild pleasant day—At night came in and attended lecture at the Hall by Horace Greeley—Subject great men—

\*Sunday Decr 26 At 9 this morning met Greeley at Jonas office and had talk on political matters.<sup>1</sup> He then went with me to Dr Warren's Church, and dined with us. At 2½ P M went with him to dedication of New Unitarian Church—Sermon by Mr Billings. Mrs B. Emma & I attended church there again at night

Monday, Decr 27. 1858 Cloudy, dismal, sloppy day. At work in office preparing argument in case of Morrell vs Cove in Supreme Court of U. S.

Tuesday Decr 28 Just like yesterday—Warm & cloudy

Wednesday Decr 29 No change—Still warm, cloudy and sloppy—At work in office At night heard a most excellent lecture from Dr Holland of Springfield Mass: on social life in America

\*Thursday Decr 30 Dismal & raining—Turned to snow but melted fast as it fell—Froze a very little before night At work in office

\*Friday Decr 31 Turned cold last night & froze, but this has been a very clear, bright, mild day—

At work in office

<sup>1</sup>Jonas wrote Trumbull the gist of this conversation December 26, 1858, saying that Browning, himself and others had talked very freely to Greeley about the *Tribune's* benevolent attitude toward Douglas in the senatorial campaign. Trumbull MSS., Library of Congress.

## 1859

\*Quincy

Saturday Jan'y 1. 1859 A bright, pleasant day, with a bracing atmosphere. At work in office until 2 P. M. The rest of the day until 8 at night, was calling on my friends

Sunday Jan'y 2 Pleasant winter weather, but became cloudy in afternoon, and looks as if preparing for snow or rain. At Church A M & P. M.

\*Monday Jan'y 3. Bright, mild, pretty day. At 1½ P. M. took the cars for Chicago, to attend the U S Circuit Court. Mr Grimshaw came with me as far as Mendota, on his way to Springfield. Reached there just at 12 O'clock at night. He took Central road to Springfield, and I came on to Chicago. Much colder than when I left home—perhaps because I am much further North.

Chicago

Tuesday Jan'y 4, 1859 Reached Chicago this morning at 5½ O'clock—Stopped at Briggs House—Am in room No: 20. Cold & snowing a little. \*At work preparing cases—

Wednesday Jan'y 5 Good winter weather—cloudy & cold—At work preparing cases

Thursday Jan'y 6 Cloudy, cold day—Snowing all the afternoon—very fine snow with wind keen from N W. Jury to day for first time this Term—Commenced trial of case of Palmer vs Miller & Wallace Eject from Hancock

Friday Jan'y 7 Very cold day—Snowing in morning—Cleared off at night & bitter cold Concluded case we commenced yesterday—Jury went out after 3 P. M. when Court adjourned

\*Chicago

Saturday Jan'y 8 1859 Bright, but very cold day—Attending Court and trying cases

Sunday Jan'y 9 Bright, cold day—Not out thro the day. At night went to Rev Mr Patterson's Church, and heard him preach a very good sermon on the creation of man in God's image



Monday Jany 10 Hard winter, but not so cold as yesterday—  
Attending Court

Tuesday Jany 11. Mild day—thawing—At night cloudy &  
looking like rain Attending Court

Wednesday Jany 12 Warm day—About all day without  
overcoat—Attending Court—At night went for an hour or so to  
dancing party in Dining room

Chicago Thursday Jany 13 1859 Warm & cloudy—Went to Court  
without over coat. Commenced raining about noon Attended  
Mc Vickers Theatre at night, and heard Miss Woodbury as Mrs  
Haller in the Stranger—She did not do it well.

Friday Jany 14 Raining all the forenoon and raining and  
snowing in the P. M. Attending Court

\*Saturday Jany 15 Cloudy, but not cold—thawing—Attend-  
ing Court—At 4 P. M. some five or six of us dined at Blackwells,

Sunday Jany 16 Cloudy, disagreeable morning—Snowed  
heavily from one to two O'clock but melted as it fell—At Dr  
Rices Church in the morning. Mr Patterson preached. Went  
again at night & heard Dr Rice—An able sermon on the immor-  
tality of the soul

Chicago Monday Jany 17. 1859 A bright, cold day. Attending  
Court—At night heard Dr Blaney at Metropolitan Hall, on the  
Chemistry of geology. He did not appear to be *at home* upon  
the subject, and was by no means interesting

Tuesday Jany 18 Bright, pleasant day—Attending Court

Wednesday Jany 19 Bright, mild day—Attending Court—  
Continued all my cases which remain untried, and am ready to  
start home in the morning

\*Thursday Jany 20 A very mild day. At 7½ A. M. took the  
cars for home—Dined at Mendota—took supper at Galesburg,  
and reached home at 9½ P. M.

incy Friday Jany 21, 1859 Much colder than yesterday—ground  
hard frozen. In the office answering letters a good part of the  
day.

Saturday Jan'y 22 The coldest day of the season—Five or six degrees below zero At work in office part of the day

\*Sunday Jan'y 23 Pleasant winter day—At church A. M. & P. M.

Monday Jan'y 24 Very mild, pleasant day. At 4 A. M. started to Springfield Took the rail road to Versailles, and thence in an open road wagon to Naples. The roads were excessively rough—were  $4\frac{3}{4}$  hours making the distance, about 15 miles Reached Naples & crossed the river just in time to get on the cars for Springfield at 3 P. M. & reached here about 8

Spring-  
field

Tuesday Jan'y 25, 1859 At the American House Room No 30½—Called on Miss Austin, Miss Steuart & at Dr Browns, where I met Mrs Allen (Sallie McCaw) At work most of the day

Wednesday 26 Very pleasant day—At work in Court—Went to Judge Treats to supper with the Supreme Judges, and Grimshaw & M<sup>c</sup>Chesney

Thursday 27 Warm day—Rained most of the night, and have had alternate sunshine & shower to day. At work in U S Court trying cases

Friday 28—Pleasant day. At work in Court At party at Jesse K Dubois' at night. Made the acquaintance of Mrs Tom Marshall. A very pleasant agreeable lady

Spring-  
field

Saturday Jan'y 29. 1859 Pleasant day. At work in Court—At Rev Dr Browns to tea x

Sunday Jan'y 30 Hard frozen, but pleasant winter day. At Dr Brown's Church in the morning & Mr Jennings at night

Monday Jan'y 31 Pleasant winter day. At work in Court—

Tuesday Feby 1. Pleasant weather—At work in court. At night heard Geo: D Prentice lecture in the representative Hall on American Statesmanship. He drew a dark picture of politics in America, yet a just one He is of opinion that the Congress is greatly corrupted and debased, and that a great majority of its members are selfish demagogues and rouges, and I concur with him

Wednesday, Feby 2, 1859. Cloudy, foggy, muddy, dismal day—Attending Court. At large party at Lincoln's at night.

Thursday Feby 3. Turned cold last night & froze hard—Cold day—Commenced snowing a little before night. At Rev Dr Browns to supper.

\*Friday Feby 4. Snowed last night just enough to cover the ground—Pretty cold day—Attending Court—At night attended Senate committee of investigation raised to enquire into a fraud perpetrated by some one, upon the State, with canal scrip.<sup>1</sup> May 1 1839 & Augt 1. 1839 a large amount of 90 day checks were issued by the canal commrs payable at Chicago branch of the State Bk—all of which with the exception of \$316 were paid and taken up years ago. They have been stolen—how or by whom we dont know, and within the last two years Gov Mattison has presented, & had over \$100,000 of them funded, and State bonds issued for them. A committee has been raised to investigate the matter, and Koerner, Grimshaw & myself are attending the examination on behalf of the State. The duty of examining the witnesses on our part devolves on me Stewart & Edwards of this place & Stewart of Chicago<sup>2</sup> attend on the part of Govr Mattison. The investigation commenced at 7 P. M. to day at the Auditors office

Saturday Feby 5, 1859 Pretty cold day. Late in afternoon snowed heavily for a while—Attending court till 3 P. M. and from 3 to 6 before the committee of investigation and again from 7 to 10. The evidence thus far has disclosed that a large amount of canal scrip in \$100 and \$50 bills, dated May 1 & Augt 1. 1839, and payable at 90 days, and which had been paid and taken up by the state, and packed away in boxes for safe keeping without being cancelled or defaced, had been stolen, and that \$107,450 of it had

<sup>1</sup>The best account of the Matteson fraud is contained in the succeeding pages of the diary. Matteson was later charged with using money lavishly for Douglas' election in 1860 in the hope of escaping the consequences of the fraud. Ultimately he made an assignment to reimburse the state. Both the legislative committee and the Sangamon County grand jury whitewashed Matteson, the Republicans alleged for political reasons. His professions of innocence in buying from persons he could not name are hard to credit.

<sup>2</sup>The Stuart of Chicago is probably David Stuart, 1816-1868; attorney and Democratic politician; elected to 33d Congress from Detroit, Michigan. He was accused as correspondent in the Burch divorce case of 1860.

been presented at the fund Commrs office by Gov Mattison and State bonds issued for it in the names of other persons, but for his benefit. None of it has been presented by any other person, and he can give no account of where he obtained it. He says he bot it at sundry times, and of sundry persons, but who they were, or where they reside he has no knowledge.

These checks were payable at the branch of the State Bank Chicago, and were redeemed there in 1839 & 1840, and according to the evidence they were then sent to canal office—There

which, they were done up in packages and packed in boxes, for safe keeping, were sent back to the bank. Sometime after they were again taken to the canal office, where they remained till Gov: Mattisons Adm̄rn, when by his direction they were sent here to his address. There we lose trace of them, and the only account we have yet got of their contents is that above given

Spring-  
field

\*Spring-  
field

Sunday Feby 6. 1859 Pretty cold, but pleasant day. At Dr Browns Church in the morning, and at Mr Jennings at night.

Monday Feby 7. Pleasant winter day. At work in the Fund Commrs office endeavoring to determine the precise amount of the fraud. I ascertain that of the stolen checks there was presented by Gov: Mattison & funded \$107,450

That int certificates for the int which accrued from their date to July 1, 1847, at which time the bonds bore date, were issued to the amount of \$52,264.50  
Int in cash paid on the bonds since they were issued \$24,374.00  
Int: coupons taken from the bonds & funded \$38,977.00  
Making an aggregate of \$223,065.50  
All the above interest has now been paid

Spring-  
field

Tuesday Feby 8. 1859 Pleasant winter day. At work in Fund Commrs office. At 7 P M Committee of investigation had another meeting at Auditors office—Examined Genl. Thornton<sup>1</sup> & Mr Gallaway<sup>2</sup>—Nothing new elicited<sup>nothing</sup>

<sup>1</sup>William F. Thornton, 1789-1873. Born in Virginia; came to Illinois, 1833; canal commissioner, 1836-1842; Whig, later a Democrat.

<sup>2</sup>Andrew J. Galloway, born 1814 in Pennsylvania. Served as assistant engineer of Illinois and Michigan Canal; 1849, secretary of canal trustees; later assistant engineer of Illinois Central Railroad.

Wednesday Feby 9. Bright, cold day—Fine winter weather  
185

Continued to day my investigations in Fund Commrs office. The whole amount of \$100. ninety day checks of Augt 1, 1839 issued from the canal office was \$30,000, and they were all redeemed,

and so reported years ago. Among the, <sup>stolen</sup> checks presented & funded by Gov: Matteson was the sum of \$10,900 purporting to be of this issue. We have had a large black trunk which was sent from the canal office to Gov Matteson, by his direction, and which was supposed to contain cancelled canal scrip and checks, opened, & its contents examined & counted. In this trunk was found of the Augt: issue of \$100 checks \$26,400 cancelled. Add to this the \$10,900 funded by Gov Matteson, and it makes \$37,300, being an excess of \$7,300 over the actual issue. Here was a discrepancy which the canal officers could not explain to me, and I went to work to ferret it out. I had seen in the black trunk some packages of these checks which had never been issued, a much larger amount having been struck off than the canal had had occasion to use, and they were, queerly enough, put away in packages instead of being destroyed. They were signed by the officers, and only wanted the name of the payee inserted to complete them for use. All that were really used were filled up payable to the order of Jno: Calhoun who was treasurer of the canal board, and it occurred to me that Matteson might have obtained

blank, unfilled checks, some of these, and funded them. These Augt: checks had not as yet been particularly examined during the investigation for the reason that they had never been counterfeited, whilst the May issue had, and the investigation had started with the theory that the funded May checks were counterfeit, and they alone therefore had been scrutinized to settle the question of their genuineness, and when that question was determined, and it was ascertained that they had been stolen, and not counterfeited, we took the amt of Augt checks which Matteson had funded from the books, without examining the checks themselves, knowing them to be genuine, and to have been stolen likewise. But now when the excess of checks on hand over the actual issue appeared, and

Spring-  
field

Spring-  
field

Spring-  
field



was to be accounted for I went to Dubois the Auditor, and requested him to show them to me. He produced the packages—I opened them, and discovered the astounding fact that Matteson had presented and had funded the sum of \$10,100 of these blank checks untrimmed, with their long, rough ends still upon them, all white fresh, and new in appearance as the day they were struck off. They were unsoiled by handling, and most manifestly had never been in circulation. It is *impossible* he could have bought these. No man would have been fool enough either to offer them, or buy them. It is clear beyond doubt that he stole them

Went to Jno: T Stewarts to supper

Spring-  
field

Thursday, Feby 10. 1859 Bright, but cold winter day.

Have continued my investigations in the fund Commrs office, but have made no further discoveries At Dr Brown's to tea, and after that at a levee at Gov Bissells. A great crowd present, and a pleasant party. Commenced snowing about dark and still falling when I came home at midnight

Friday Feby 11. Snow about 3 inches deep this morning, and still falling, but ceased during the forenoon. No further developments to day in relation to the stolen checks. The case does not appear to be susceptible of further elucidation. The funding of the \$10,500 of blank checks admits of no explanation, and is absolutely conclusive of Mattison's guilt

Spring-  
field

Saturday Feby 12. 1859 Pleasant winter day. At 7 P. M. the investigating Committee met in the Senate Chamber. Sam Fuller, Senator from Tazewell, Chairman of the Committee presided. He has been sick and not present before. He at once exhibited himself as a partizan of Mattison's, and so conducted it.

as to bring upon himself general contempt. He deserves, He is a man of small intellect, large conceit, and affects a dignity and importance which he does not possess. All the other members of the Committee have conducted themselves with great dignity and propriety—none of them having given the slightest indication

Spring-  
field of prejudice or partiality. Josiah McRoberts Esqr<sup>1</sup> was examined to night. Genl. Thornton, Genl Fry and Mr Manning<sup>2</sup> were recalled and examined as to the blank checks. As Mr Hitt,<sup>3</sup> a good stenographer, has been employed as clerk, and sworn truly to report all the testimony, I forebear inserting it here, as I presume it will be published. Mr Isaac Curran of this place, & a Mr Moore, Mattisons superintendent on a rail road were examined on behalf of Mattison—They evinced great anxiety to shield him, and ventured as far as they dare do for that purpose. They left the impression upon those who heard them that they were not the witnesses of truth. The effect of their evidence was damaging to his cause. We also called and examined an old man by the name of Smith, but his testimony was so paltry as to amount to nothing—Continued in session till 11 O'clock. Napoleon Buford came to my room, and remained till after midnight

Sunday Feby 13. 1859. Pleasant winter day. At Dr Brown's Church in the morning, and not out again

\*Monday Feby 14. Raining part of the day and very sloppy. Have been at work in the Auditors office, pursuing my enquiries in regard to the frauds upon the State. Just as I was going to bed Buford came in, and made me dress myself, to go with him, and Hall Wilson, and Bob Miller to get an oyster and wine supper.

It was after midnight when we got back—I read the Spectator for some time afterwards, and slept but little. My labors since I have been here have been arduous, and I am weary, and anxious to get away home

Tuesday Feby 15 1859 Very busy in the forenoon in the Auditors office. In the afternoon the committee of investigation Supreme Court room met in the, and continued in session with a short interval for supper until 11 O'clock at night.

<sup>1</sup>Josiah McRoberts, 1820-1885. Born in Illinois; began practice of law, 1844; state senator, 1846-1850; trustee of Illinois and Michigan Canal, 1852-1856; circuit judge, 1866-1885.

<sup>2</sup>Joel Manning, 1793-1869. Secretary of Illinois and Michigan Canal Commission, 1836-1845.

<sup>3</sup>Robert R. Hitt, 1834-1906. Reporter of Lincoln-Douglas debates; representative in Congress, 1882-1905.

I reproduced and examined Genl. Fry, Mr Manning, Wm H. Brown and Ezra Sherman. Mr McRoberts was also reexamined, besides some three or four witnesses called by Gov Mattison. x (See one leaf back) (Turn over one leaf for the beginning of to day)<sup>1</sup>

As in the beginning of this investigation, Mr Hitt, an excellent stenographer, was sworn truly to report the evidence, and as I suppose the committee will order it to be published, I forbear to insert it here. Suffice it to say that we traced the trunk and box, which contained the stolen checks, into Gov Mattisons possession by the most conclusive evidence. No account has since been had of the box, and all that has been heard of its contents is the funding of the stolen checks by Gov Mattison, and he can give no account of where he got them

The trunk is here but the seals of that have, as we proved been broken. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to make the case stronger than it is of his guilt. The evidence was closed tonight, and submitted to the committee without comment, except that Mr David Stewart chose to make a speech for the public, to which I briefly replied. The opinion of men of all parties, so far as I can learn it, is that he is guilty—that his guilt is conclusively proven, and that the case is not susceptible of further elucidation

It is a case of a very strange and very painful character.

I could not shut out from my mind the strange incidents developed in the course of this investigation, and tossed restlessly on my pillow all night, with hardly any sleep

Wednesday Feby 16. Bright, delightful, Spring like day over head. Getting ready to home. Dined at Mr Edwards. After tea called at Gov Bissell's and spent a pleasant hour with Mrs Bissell—Then called on Miss Bettie Stewart, and Miss Fanny Austin

Thursday Feby 17. 1859 Rained heavily last night, and a dark, rainy day—Have been burning gas in the State House all

<sup>1</sup>Browning turned over a blank leaf in beginning the entry for February 15, 1859, and then finished his entry on the pages he had skipped. This accounts for his memorandum.

Spring-  
field  
Feby 15  
1859

Spring-  
field

Spring-  
field

the forenoon. I expected to start home to day, Genl. Thornton, Genl. Fry, Hatch, Dubois, Ray<sup>1</sup> and others resisted so earnestly that I have consented to remain till tomorrow

Mattison & his friends are using every means to suppress the evidence taken by the investigating committee and to prevent its publication. They are dogging the members of the Committee, and I found several of them this morning around Mr Hitt, the stenographer. They will bribe him if possible, to to pervert the evidence in writing it out, and corrupt him if they can; but I have confidence in his integrity, and do not fear that. My suspicion has been that they were watching an opportunity to steal his short hand notes. I went to him in the Senate Chamber since night, and put him upon his guard. He seemed himself apprehensive that something of the sort might be intended, and in company with Dr Ray and myself took them to the Auditors office, and delivered them; consisting of three small books, to Hall Wilson, who in our presence, locked them in the safe, that they might be securely kept.

They were enveloped in a wrapper endorsed "Shorthand hand notes of evidence before the Finance Committee in relation to fraudulent checks". This may not be the literal endorsement, but is very nearly so. It is substantially correct. Took tea at Dr Browns

Friday Feby 18 1859 Bright and warm again this morning. At 9 A. M. took the cars for St Louis, but stopped at Alton to intercept a boat—None came, and I had to stay all night—Stopped at the Alton house

Saturday Feby 19. At 8 A. M. got on packet and came to St Louis, where I took passage for home on Steamer Desmoisie, which is to got out at 4 P. M. The day is very warm—too warm for fire, and the streets muddy—so I have not been up Town except to Kenneth McKinzie where I bot a box of Catawba wine of a dozen bottles, for which I paid \$12—The wine is pleasant, and I have no doubt healthful, and in my judgment the introduc

<sup>1</sup>Charles H. Ray, 1821-1870. Born in New York; 1855, editor-in-chief of *Chicago Tribune*, and a strong Republican; canal trustee, 1857-1861; editor *Chicago Evening Post*, 1870.

Spring-  
field

\*Spring-  
field



St. Louis

of it to general use will be the best temperance movement which can be made At 4 P. M. left St Louis for Quincy. About night thundered and lightened heavily—the wind rose into a gale, and became very cold—Continued to blow all night—so that the boat labored much and made but little headway

Sunday Feby 20 Day break found us below Clarksville—Cold day, but moderated towards night. Reached home about 9 Oclock at night, and found all well.

Monday Feby 21 At home—Bright, mild, pleasant day. Had radishes for breakfast, and lettuce & asparagus for dinner, all from our own garden. Bushnell started this evening on an expedition to St Joe over the new R R—Wanted me to go but I couldn't

\*Quincy

Tuesday, Feby 22, 1859 Warm, pretty day. At work in office. At night Dr & Mrs Warren, & Mr, Mrs & Miss Asbury at our house to oyster & wine supper—

Wednesday Feby 23. Warm, cloudy day—At work in office. At night at a party at I. T. Bakers to meet Capt James Whitney of San Francisco

Thursday Feby 24 Much colder than yesterday, and cloudy—\*Snowed heavily in the afternoon, but melted as fast as it fell—

Friday Feby 25 Dark, cloudy, misting day—At work in office

Saturday Feby 26 Big white frost, and fine bright day—Sterne & Duncan dined with me—At work in office

\*Quincy

Sunday Feby 27 1859 Bright, pleasant day—At Dr Warrens Church A M & P M and at the Episcopal at night.

\*Monday Feby 28—At work in office. Bright, pleasant day—

\*Tuesday March 1 Cloudy & pretty cold, but pleasant enough for the season. At work in office. At night attended a party at Dr Rowlands with Mrs B. When starting home, she tripped at the head of the stair way, and fell to the bottom. Twas wonderful it did not kill her. She was much hurt, but no bones were broken. Walked home without much difficulty, but suffered greatly through the night with her left foot—Slept none—Bruised on shoulders, knees &c. but no internal injury apparent



Quincy

Wednesday March 2. 1859 Cloudy, with wind from S. E. Raining a little in afternoon \*Mrs Cox came in to tea, and she and I went to City Hall, and heard Herman Melville Esqr<sup>1</sup> lecture on the South Sea Islands—Erratic but interesting

Thursday March 3. Cloudy, gloomy day, but cleared up handsomely before night \*At work in office

Friday March 4 Bright, beautiful day, with a fresh breeze. \*At night at small party at Jno: Tillson's

Saturday March 5 A little frozen this morning, but bright day with the wind from the South. \*Miss Joanna Rice to tea At night heard Jno: G Saxe<sup>2</sup> read his poem "New England" at the City Hall. Some capital points, and all worth hearing

\*Quincy  
& Carth-  
age

Sunday—March 6 1859 Warm, balmy, hazy Spring day. At 11 A. M. took passage on Steamer Quincy, on my way to Carthage to attend Court—Do not think it right to travel on Sunday, and never do when I can avoid it—but now it is matter of necessity. The roads are in such condition that carriages cannot reach Carthage from Plymouth, and I have to go to Warsaw that I may get out on the Rail road, and to do that I am obliged to leave home to day. We reached Warsaw before night, and Grimshaw and I went to Wagley's to stay all night. After supper Mr & Mrs Sadler & others called in, so that I did not get to church as I had intended doing. About dark commenced to rain and continued through all, or most of the night

Carthage

Monday, March 7 1859 After breakfast this morning a number of us took passage on a platform car, for Carthage, which, in three hours carried us within three miles of our destination, that being as far as the railroad is laid. Here we were met on the prairie by wagons and carriages from Carthage, to carry us in. Grimshaw, myself and seven others took passage in a common two horse-farm wagon with four horses attached, and were three hours more in accomplishing four miles. I think I never

<sup>1</sup>Herman Melville, 1819-1891. The famous novelist, author of *Moby Dick*.

<sup>2</sup>John Godfrey Saxe, 1816-1887. Best known as poet and humorist, but had some connection with Vermont politics, being the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for governor in 1859 and 1860.

Carthage saw the roads so bad. We could drive only from 50 to 100 yds at a time, and then stop to let the horses rest—and several times some of them lay down in the mud as soon as we would stop, quite exhausted. Long before we got to Carthage all the carriages except ours were emptied the passengers taking it on foot—and ours retained but three of those with which it set out. Some of the wagons did not get in at all. The horses were taken from them, and they left upon the prairie. I kept my place in the wagon, and after three hours ride reached Carthage & stopped at Artois Hamiltons. The day has been very dark & cloudy, occasionally raining a little. Saw great quantities of mosquitoes on the prairie, and heard the frogs singing, and prairie chickens roaring

\*Tuesday March 8 Mild and cloudy, with occasional glimpses of sun shine—Attending Court.

Wednesday March 9 Fine spring day—Attending Court

Carthage Thursday March 10. 1859 Warm, fine day—Cloudy and thundering some about night, but without rain Attending Court

Friday March 11 Rained heavily last night, and much cooler this morning—Cloudy, gusty day. In afternoon snowed heavily with strong wind from S. W. which rose almost to a hurricane. Snow melted as fast as it fell—Very cloudy and no abatement of the wind at night Attending Court

Saturday March 12 Mild, pleasant day—Attended Court in forenoon. After dinner a number of us went to Warsaw, riding out in carriages four miles to the rail road, and thence on a plat form car to Warsaw, Met Mrs B. & Emma at Wagleys—They came up on the packet to day.

Warsaw  
& Carthage

Sunday, March 13. 1859 Fine warm day—Went to Episcopal Church with Mrs Wagley in the morning. Mrs Browning did not go out. Rained at night

Monday March 14. After breakfast started for Carthage Came on plat form car on R R to within four miles, and in from there in carriage. Turned cold last night, and strong South wind, very cold, blowing—occasionally snowing a little. I had on heavy over coat of my own, and a heavier one of Wagley's

over it, notwithstanding which I suffered very much with cold. The wind has continued high all day, and very cold, with some snow in the afternoon, and yet it does not freeze—and yet suffer more than in mid winter. Attended Court in afternoon

\*Carthage Tuesday March 15 1859 Frost and ice this morning, but bright, beautiful day Attending Court

\*Wednesday March 16 Fine warm day. Attending Court

Thursday March 17 Rained last night, and raining a little during the forenoon. In afternoon had a fierce storm of wind and rain, which turned to snow, and for some hours before night, and into the night the wind continued to blow heavily, and a hail like snow to fall fast It melted however nearly as fast as it fell—Attending Court

Friday March 18 Several inches of snow this morning and a little frozen. Most of the snow disappeared during the day, but became quite cold at night. Attending Court

Carthage Saturday March 19, 1859 Cloudy & rather disagreeable kind of day. Grimshaw & Wheat left this afternoon. I could not get away

Sunday March 20 Raining some through the day. Attended Mr Swans Church in the morning, and not out again. Rained heavily after night

\*Monday March 21. Warm cloudy day. At work in Court till 2 P. M. when we got through, adjourned, and all started home. Went out in wagons to the Rail road, and thence on a plat form car to Warsaw where we arrived about dark. Stopped at Wilson's tavern. After supper went to singing school, and with other company home with Mrs Sadler, and remained till 10 O'clock

\*Quincy Tuesday, March 22 1859 Warm, bright, lovely spring day. At 2 P. M. took passage on Steamer Louisiana for home where I arrived after 4 P. M. Mrs Bushnell & Mrs Asbury with us to tea—

Wednesday March 23. Rained a little last night, but warm, fine day. Geo D Prentice, Bushnell & Cox with us to tea. All went to City Hall & heard Prentice deliver his fine lecture on

American Statesmanship—He and Bushnell went home with me after the lecture and we drank a bottle of sparkling Catawba

\*Thursday March 24 Turned much colder in the night—Cool, bright, windy March day

\*Friday March 25 Weather as yesterday—Mr & Mrs Woods, & Mr & Mrs Stewart with us to dinner. D H Solomon & his wife (Bettie Chinn) called after dinner

Quincy

Saturday March 26. 1859 Fine, warm spring day—hazy & looking a little like rain

Sunday March 27. Pleasant, hazy spring day—At Church A. M. & P. M.—Dr Warren being absent at Camp Point, Mr Emery preached in the morning & Mr Baken in afternoon

Monday March 28 Heavy thunder storm & rain before day. Rained all day without intermission, with occasional thunder & lightning. Circuit Court commenced its session to day, Judge Bailey<sup>1</sup> presiding

Tuesday March 29 Turned cold & froze last night—Considerable ice this morning, but pleasant day

Wednesday March 30 Frost & ice this morning, but pleasant day. Attending Court

Quincy

Thursday March 31, 1859 Some frost this morning, but bright, pretty day. Sickness in Judge Baileys family made it necessary for him to go home, and at noon he adjourned Court till Monday next Mrs Sadler of Warsaw came down to day

Friday Apl. 1. Cool hazy day—After breakfast Mrs Sadler left for home on Steamer Louisiana—\*Mr & Mrs Richardson & Mr & Mrs Lane at our house to tea

Saturday Apl. 2 Rained last night—Bright & mild but windy day—Clouded up and became cold before night. At night Republicans held a meeting at the City Hall, and nominated candidates for Mayor, Marshall, Aldermen &c.

<sup>1</sup>John S. Bailey, born 1814; came to Illinois in 1836, studying law in Ralston's office in Quincy; on his admission to the bar, 1841, he began the practice of law in Brown County; member of General Assembly of 1846; 1858 commissioned circuit judge of the fifth district.

\*Quincy Sunday Apl 3, 1859 Took medicine last night, and not out to day. Rather pleasant day, but turned cold, and snowed at night

Monday Apl. 4. An inch or so of snow on the ground this morning

\*Tuesday Apl. 5. Very hard frozen this morning—Afraid the fruit killed—Cloudy, cold day, but became pleasant and cleared off before night

Wednesday Apl. 6 Pleasant day, but a little cool—Court commenced again to day, not having been in session since last Thursday Judge Sibley presiding At 11 O'clock at night alarm of fire—Livery stable adjoining Hess house burnt—7 horses destroyed & Hess House greatly injured

Quincy Thursday Apl. 7, 1859 Cool, cloudy morning Mrs B & I dined at McFadon's Attending Court.

Friday Apl. 8—Tolerably pleasant day. Attending Court

Saturday Apl. 9 Thundering this morning, and raining at 7 A. M. Cleared off about noon and became very pleasant Attending Court

Sunday Apl. 10 Rained all day—At church in morning, but not out again

Monday Apl. 11. Pleasant day—Attending Court. Mr McGruder of Schuyler County, a member of Presbytery, which is to convene tomorrow, arrived to day, and is staying with us.

Quincy Tuesday Apl. 12, 1859 Rained some in forenoon, but pleasant day after—Attending Court—Mr Ewing & Rev Mr Mathews of Monmouth, and Mr Graham of Oquawka, members of Presbytery, arrived to day, and are stopping with us. At night attended at City Hall, and heard a lecture by Chas: B Lawrence Esqr on France—One of the best I ever heard.

Wednesday Apl. 13. Cloudy, misty day. Attending Court—Rained pretty hard after night & turned cold

Thursday Apl. 14 Ice & frost this morning. Bright but quite cool—Attending Court Attended Church at night and heard Dr Candee preach—Presbytery adjourned this evening—



Quincy Friday Apl. 15, 1859 A very little snow on the ground this morning & quite cold—frozen—Presbytery having adjourned the friends who have been staying with us left this morning. At 2 P. M. attended funeral of Mrs Amos Green, who died day before yesterday

Saturday Apl. 16 Cloudy & cold—quite like winter. The Judge went home to day, and being no court I am at work in office

\*Sunday Apl. 17 Fine Spring day—Attended Church A M & P. M. Afternoon walked out to Asburys with Bushnell &c

Monday Apl. 18 Very fine day—Charter election going on—Court not sitting—At work in office—Republicans carried election by very large majority Benneson, Mayor—Field Clerk—Willing, Marshall &c

Quincy Tuesday Apl. 19, 1859 Very fine spring day—Attending Court—

Wednesday Apl. 20 Warmest day of the season Attending Court

Thursday Apl. 21 Turned cold last night & rained, and continued to rain gently most of the day. Attending Court

Friday Apl. 22 Cool day, but cleared off beautifully before night. Attending Court.

Saturday Apl. 23—Lovely morning, but frost. Ice near  $\frac{1}{4}$  of inch thick—Fear the fruit may have been injured which has escaped to this time

Sunday 24. Very fine spring day. At Church A M & P. M. and went at night & heard Billings on Beecher.

Quincy Monday Apl. 25, 1859 Fine spring day—\*Attending Court—

Tuesday Apl. 26 Thunder storm & rain last night, but pleasant day—Attending Court Stone & wife & Pope & wife & other friends with us to tea. Got through, and adjourned Court this P. M.

Wednesday Apl. 27. Something cooler than yesterday, but pleasant day At work in office

Thursday Apl. 28 Cloudy & cool—At work in office. \*At night went with Mrs B & Mrs Cox to large party at Robt Tillsons—

Friday Apl. 29 Warm, cloudy spring day. Late p. m. Commenced raining At work in office

Quincy

\*Saturday Apl. 30. 1859 Very fine day. At work in office in forenoon. Just after dinner Dr Thomas W Buckner arrived on a visit, and I spent the afternoon in riding about the City with him.

\*Sunday May 1. Fine day—Rained a very little in afternoon. At Church in the morning, but not out again. At 5 P M Dr Buckner left on Packet for St. Louis.

Monday May 2. Cloudy—quite brisk rain after breakfast. At work in office

Tuesday May 3 Warm day & showery. Mrs B out at Websters to dinner At work in office \*Commenced raining again just at night, and continued for sometime quite heavily—

Quincy

Wednesday, May 4, 1859 Bright, delightful day—quite the warmest of the season At work in office

\*Thursday May 5. Another very fine, and warm day. At work in office. At night Mrs B & I at John Woods to tea—Quite a party

Friday May 6. Fine warm day. At work in office—Party at our house at night

Saturday May 7 Still warm—Rained a little in afternoon—At work in office

\*Sunday May 8 Fine day—At Church in the morning Dr Warren being absent, Mr Elliott, a Methodist brother, preached for us. Miss Benton, Miss & others home with us to dinner. I was not out in afternoon

\*Quincy

Monday May 9 1859 Bright, pretty morning—At 6 O'clock took the cars for Galesburg on my way to Oquawka to attend Court. Mrs Wadleigh (Mary Ann Phelps) who has been on a visit in Quincy is with me on her way home. At Monmouth, at noon, I left the cars—Stopped at Mr Grovers 1¼ miles East

of Monmouth, and stayed with them all night. Went into Town in afternoon & called at offices of Luce, Griffith & Paine, and at house of A. C. Harding—then returned to Mr Grovers & staid all night. Cloudy, cold day, threatening rain at night, & did sprinkle a little

Tuesday May 10. Cloudy, cold morning; but about noon became bright & pleasant. Took dinner at Mr Grovers—then took the cars to Oquawka junction, and came thence in hack to Oquawka—At Barnes hotel

\*Oquawka \*Wednesday May 11, 1859 Fine warm day. Attending Court.

Thursday May 12. Thunder and very heavy rain this morning early, but was warm fine day—Attending court

Friday May 13 Cold day—Fire Comfortable and necessary—Attending Court Dined at Mr Wadleighs, and took tea at Mr Phelps'

\*Saturday May 14 Cold, cloudy day, drizzling rain all P. M. At 4 P. M. took Steamer Black Hawk on my way home—Whilst she lay at Burlington I went up to brother Miltons & took tea—Ungles of Keithsburg who was aboard went with me. Reached Keokuk about or after midnight

\*Quincy Sunday, May 15, 1859 Remained aboard of Black Hawk all night—but early this morning came on to Steamer Warsaw. She was taking freight at different places, and did not arrive at Quincy till 3½ O'clock P. M. Thunder and a great deal of rain at night

Monday May 16. Warm, cloudy day. At home and at work in office—\*Mrs Duncan, Miss Julia Duncan, Mrs Hamilton & Jo: Duncan came from Jacksonville to day on their way to Davenport. Mrs Hamilton stayed all night with us. Miss Julia having lost a toe was unable to walk, so they all remained at the Quincy House

\*Quincy Tuesday May 17, 1859 Bright, beautiful day, and warm as Summer—Have on Summer Clothes—At work in office. Capt Chilton Moore of Fayette County, Miss Mary his daughter & Miss Eliza O'Bannon arrived at 5. this P. M.

Wednesday May 18. Very lovely morning. Capt Moore & Mrs Browning in the buggy & Mrs Cox, Miss Moore, Miss OBannon, and myself in a carriage went riding after breakfast Capt & Miss Moore, Miss O'Bannon and myself took tea at Asburys—

Thursday May 19 Lovely day as ever shone. At night had a party of about 100 persons at our house Music & dancing, and up till 2 O'clock in the morning

Quincy

Friday, May 20, 1859 Somewhat cool this morning, but a warm, pleasant day. Rained at 1 P. M. but soon cleared off. At 4 P. M. Capt & Miss Mary Moore bid us good bye, and took passage on Steamer Lady Pike for Hannibal

Saturday May 21 Very beautiful day, but cool. At work in office

Sunday May 22 Fine day—At Church A M & P. M. In P. M. called at Mrs Austins & took Miss Simonds

Monday May 23. Very fine day. At work in office. Mrs Flagg (Mary Babington) came at 9 O'clock at night, on her way to St. Joseph and remained all night

Quincy

Tuesday—May 24, 1859 High wind all last night, but fine day—At work in office At night Miss OBannon and I attended

Wednesday May 25

Concert at the City Hall, given by the musical association—Very heavy rain from 9 to 10 O'clock

Wednesday May 25. Pleasant day—At work in office

Thursday May 26 Miss O'Bannon & Jake Caldwell went to Hannibal this morning on Steamer Lady Pike Commenced raining about 8 A M. and continued to fall briskly \*till 3 P M, when it ceased, and became quite cold. Cox took tea with us—Jake & Eliza got home at 11 at night

Friday May 27 Bright cool day—Have had fire all day. At work in office

\*Quincy

Saturday, May 28, 1859 Beautiful day—At work in office. \*Mrs Browning, Miss O'Bannon & myself at Mr Cox's to tea

\*Sunday May 29 Fine, pretty day—Attended Church in  
<sup>8</sup>  
 morning and evening. Mrs B quite sick last night, and too  
 unwell to be out to day.

Monday May 30 At 6 this morning took the cars for Plymouth on my way to Carthage to attend Court At Plymouth Grimshaw, Duff and myself took a covered carriage and came on, arriving at 12½ oclock & stopping at Artois Hamiltons. The morning was cloudy and threatening and commenced raining just as we left Plymouth & continued all the way to Carthage & sometime after our arrival

Carthage Tuesday May 31. 1859 Very Pleasant day. Attending Court.

Wednesday June 1 Fine warm day, but heavy rain at 3 P. M. and cleared off before night. Attending Court

Thursday June 2 Fine day, but cool—Attending Court—  
 \*Very beautiful at sun set.

Friday June 3 Cold, cloudy day—Fire necessary to comfort. After dinner Warren and I took the stage for Plymouth on our way home—travelled in overcoat, and was then uncomfortably chilly. Took supper at Cuylers tavern in Plymouth—at 7 O'clock took the cars and reached home at 9 at night. Then called at Barnes Hotel to see Mr Hawley of Lockport, who was there sick and wished to see me

Quincy Saturday June 4, 1859 Cold morning, but bright, beautiful, pleasant day. At home, and at work in office. All at Mrs Austins to tea.

Sunday June 5—Cold, cloudy day, At Church A. M. & evening. Rev Mr Rankin of Buffalo preached in the morning. Mr Griffen of Alabam with us at Church at night.

Monday June 6. Bright, pleasant morning and fine day. Mr & Mrs Cox took supper with us

Tuesday June 7 Warm, cloudy morning, but fine day—At 5 A. M. took the cars for Springfield to attend U. S. Court Arrived at 1½ P. M. & stopped at American—Room 30½ Now at night very warm & cloudy & thundering & raining some



Spring-  
field

Wednesday June 8, 1859 Thunder storm and heavy rain last night—and bright, pretty, but very cool day. Attending Court. At night went to party at Judge Logans

Thursday June 9 Bright, beautiful day. Attending Court. Went to a party at Lincolns at night

Friday June 10 Bright, but very cold day—Winter clothing necessary, and fire would not be uncomfortable—Attending Court

Saturday June 11 Fine, pleasant day—Attending Court—  
x x x

Sunday June 12 Commenced raining in the morning & continued till afternoon, but not heavily. Attended Mr Jennings Church morning & evening

Spring-  
field

Monday June 13 1859 Warm day—Heavy shower to day. Attending Court. After tea called at Mr Ridgely's, and spent an hour.

Tuesday June 14 Very warm day, with an occasional shower—Attending Court. At Dubois to tea with Williams, Grimshaw, Lincoln & others

Wednesday June 15 Rained heavily last night, and raining this morning, but turned out a lovely day. Closed my business in Court, and expect to start home via St Louis tomorrow morning

Thursday June 16 At 6 A M left Springfield—Came by Rail to Alton—thence on Steamer Baltimore to St Louis. Stopped at Planters House, Room 56—Very pretty, pleasant day till 5 P. M. when it commenced raining and still raining briskly now at night

St. Louis

Friday June 17, 1859 Heavy rain last night, but pleasant day—In afternoon rode with Barrett to the fair grounds.

Saturday June 18 Fine day—Have been expecting Mrs Browning down, but she has not come, and I will take the afternoon Packet for home. Have spent the morning visiting picture galleries, artists studios, book stores &c with Majr Wright \*At 5 P. M. took steamer Warsaw for home. At 8 O'clock, above Alton had tremendous rain

Sunday June 19. Fine day—Very warm. Reached home about 1 O'clock P. M. At Church in the evening—Rained a little after night

Quincy &  
Gales-  
burg

Monday June 20, 1859. Remarkably fine day. Very busy in the office. Miss Elizabeth Dean with us on a visit—has been for some days.

\*Tuesday June 21 Took the cars at 6 O'clock this morning for Galesburg to attend the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Knox College Arrived at 11 A. M. Stopped at Mr Gales—Fine day

Wednesday June 22 Very pleasant day. Board in session all yesterday P. M. and till 11 in the evening, and all day to day. The meeting has been harmonious and a great deal of business done, but did not get thro, and meet again in the morning I am obliged to go home, and stay at the depot to night to take the cars before day in the morning

\*Quincy

Thursday June 23. 1859 Took the cars this morning, and arrived at home between 8 & 9 O'clock A. M. Cool but pleasant day—Rained a little in afternoon.

\*Friday June 24 Pleasant day. At work in office

Saturday June 25 Rained gently in forenoon Pleasant afternoon. At work in office

\*Sunday June 26 Fine day. At Church morning and evening. Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr King preached in the morning

Monday June 27 Very fine summer day. At work in office.

Tuesday June 28 Remarkably fine day. At work in the office

Quincy

Wednesday June 29, 1859 Heavy rain this morning from 4 or 5 to 8 or 9 O'clock, but fine warm day. At work in office. Mrs B & I took tea at Erskines with Mrs Riggs

Thursday June 30 Fine day. At work in office

Friday July 1. Very fine day. In forenoon rode out with Brydges of the Chicago Journal to Gov Woods—He returned with me to dinner. Judge Lockwood & wife & Gov Wood & wife at our house in the evening

Saturday July 2. Rained pretty heavily this morning and again in afternoon. Very warm day—Spent the evening at Gov Woods with Judge Lockwood & wife & others

\*Quincy Sunday July 3. 1859 Bright, cool day. At Church morning and evening

Monday July 4. Bright, beautiful day, but very cool for the season. Spent a quiet day at home. Dr Warrens' family dined with us. At night illuminated had fire works &°

Tuesday July 5 Cloudy & cool. Busy preparing to leave for Chicago tomorrow to attend U S Circuit Court \*After tea Mrs B & I called on Miss Ungles at Esqr Asburys, and Mrs Baldwin at Mr Bull's

Wednesday July 6. At 6 O'clock this morning took the cars for Chicago, where I arrived between 6 & 7 P. M. and stopped at the Briggs House Room No 32 Warm day

Chicago Thursday July 7, 1859 Fine warm day. Attending Court. Hon Robt: J Walker<sup>1</sup> argued a case to day in Chancery, of himself against Ogden & others.

He is a small, compactly built, good looking, bald headed man apparently between 60 & 70 years of age. He is a good lawyer—man of ability—very pleasant and impressive speaker, and made a close, logical, well compacted, and well put argument.

Friday July 8 Rained this morning—tolerably warm day—Attending Court

Saturday July 9 Warm day. Attending Court

\*Sunday July 10 Very warm day. Attended Mr Humphreys Church in the morning, and Dr Rices at night

\*Chicago Monday July 11, 1859 Very warm. Attending Court. After tea called at Mr Judds and spent an hour with Miss Rossiter

Tuesday July 12 Hot. At work in Court. After tea went with Causin to Tremont, to call on Hon Robt: J. Walker, and

<sup>1</sup>Robert J. Walker, 1801-1869. Born in Pennsylvania; moved to Mississippi, 1826; senator from Mississippi, 1836-1845; secretary of the treasury, 1845-1849, author of the Walker tariff; governor of Kansas, 1857; financial agent of the United States in Europe during the Civil War.

spent an hour with him, in conversation chiefly upon political subjects. He repudiates squatter sovereignty as a great heresy, and takes the ultra proslavery view of the powers of our Government. Maintains that the Constitution carries and protects slavery in all the territories—that the right to property in a negro rests upon the same basis with the right of property in a horse, and that slavery will always exist in this country where slave labor can be made profitable.

Chicago

Wednesday July 13, 1859 Very hot—had a refreshing shower in the afternoon. Attending Court. In the evening called at Mr Kendalls to see Miss Kate Palmer of Quincy, and spent an hour or more.

Thursday July 14 The hottest day of the summer—Attending Court—

Friday July 15 Another very warm day—Attending Court.

Saturday July 16 Continues very hot—Attending Court.

Sunday July 17 I think one of the hottest days I have ever felt. Attended Mr Henry's Church in the morning & evening. My shirt has been so wet all day I could wring water out of it.

Chicago

Monday, July 18, 1859 Still very warm. Attending Court—

Tuesday July 19 Bright, warm day, but not so hot as it has been. Attending Court. Took tea at Tremont with Mrs Lincoln, Misses Logan, Mrs Powell & others, and then took a ride with Mrs Lincoln, Mrs Dubois, & Mr Doolittle.

\*Wednesday July 20 Cooler than it has been since I came here—cloth coat comfortable in the morning—Very fine, pleasant day. Attending Court.

Chicago

Thursday July 21. Cool, pleasant day. Attending Court. Day before yesterday Dubois said to me that he had heard that the Senate Finance Committee intended to have another meeting in relation to the Mattison scrip affair, and to receive additional testimony, and if such meeting occurred he wished me to be present. This morning I met Mr Fuller, Chairman of the Committee, in the U S Court room, and asked him if it was the intention of the Committee to meet again, and reopen the Mattison case for further evidence, remarking, at the same time, that I

thought that subject of enquiry completely exhausted. He replied that the Committee did intend to meet again, but whether further evidence would be gone into in the case mentioned he did not know, but if Gov M. could produce any exculpatory evidence he supposed it would be right to receive it. I answered perfectly right, but added that the interests of others as well as those of Gov Mattison were involved, and that it would not be right now to enter upon an *ex parte* investigation, and if a meeting was had, and other witnesses heard, I had been requested to be present on behalf of the State, and would be glad to be notified, so that I might attend if in my power.

He said in reply that the committee would do nothing *ex parte*, and if it was determined to take further evidence in the case I should be notified

Friday July 22 Quite cool to day. Attending Court At night heard Tom Marshall<sup>1</sup> lecture at Metropolitan Hall on the character and public services of Mr Clay. He was sadly drunk, so that his legs & tongue were both affected, and yet I listened to him for two hours without weariness. He exhibited himself, alternately, as the buffoon and the great orator, and his speech was a compound of great beauties and great blemishes. There were some as fine passages of eloquence as I ever heard. It is very melancholy to see so fine an intellect in process of extinction by indulgence in a debasing vice.

Saturday July 23 Quite cool. Attending Court

Sunday July 24 Warmer than it has been for several days past, and very delightful. Attended Mr Henry's Church in the morning, and Dr Rice's at night.

Monday July 25 1859 Cold this morning, and quite cool thro the day Attending Court—After night called to see Mrs Riley

Tuesday July 26 Very cold this morning. Attending Court—At night called at Rev Mr Henrys—

Wednesday July 27 Almost as cold as October Have to wear winter clothing to be comfortable. Attending Court

<sup>1</sup>Thomas F. Marshall, 1801-1864. Born in Kentucky; lawyer; member of Kentucky legislature; representative in 27th Congress as a Whig; served in Mexican War; removed to Chicago, 1856.



Thursday, July 28 Very cold this morning, but quite warm through the day. Attending Court. Went with George Clark to Rev Mr Henry's to tea

Friday July 29 Fine day. Attending Court

Saturday July 30 Do: At night went to McVickers theatre with Causin & Purple

Chicago Sunday July 31. 1859 Fine rain this morning before day, and again about sun down—but very fine, pleasant day. At Mr Henrys Church morning & evening—After tea called on Blackwell & family at the Adams House.

Monday Augt 1. Fine day—Attending Court. After tea called at Mr Judd's & spent an hour with Miss Rossetter

Tuesday Augt 2 Fine day—Attending Court

Wednesday Augt 3 Has rained without intermission all day. I have to day disposed of all my business for the term, and with the blessing of Heaven hope to leave here in the morning and reach home tomorrow night

\*Quincy Thursday Augt 4. 1859 After breakfast took the cars for home where I arrived in safety at 10 p. m. and found all well. Has been a very fine day. Quite a number of gentlemen from Quincy, who in company with St Jo: and hannibal people had been on a Rail Road visit to Chicago, came down to day

Had Miss Read of State of N York who has been teaching in Danville Ky, under my charge to Galva. A very pretty, pleasant, genteel young woman

Friday Augt 5. At home resting—Fine day Did not go down Town except to be shaved—

Saturday Augt 6. Fine day. At work in office

Quincy Sunday Augt 7, 1859 Took medicine last night, and was not out to day. Fine day

Monday Augt 8. Very fine day. At work in office. Mrs B & I out at Asburys to tea

Tuesday Augt 9 Delightful weather. At work in office. Mrs B & I at reception at Denmans at night

Wednesday Augt 10 Weather very fine. At work in office

Thursday Aug 11 Foggy morning, but very fine day. At work in office At night attended concert at City Hall given by Musical Association

\*Friday Aug 12 A very warm day. At work in office Mrs Capt Ford with us to tea

ncy

Saturday Aug 13. 1859 Very warm day—At work in office

Sunday Aug 14 Warm day. At Church <sup>evening</sup> A M & P. M. In afternoon Mrs B and I went out to Mr Websters in afternoon to see him, he being deranged—He would not see us. He is in a very distressing condition & ought to be in an Insane Asylum for treatment. We stopped at Mr Cox's to supper. He has just got home from Princeton where he has been to place his boys at College

Monday Aug 15 Very warm. At work in office. At night attended Concert at City Hall given by Miss Ballard, Denman & others—T'was of a very superior order

Tuesday Aug 15 One of the warmest days of the season.  
6.  
At work in office Mrs Cox in to tea

ncy

Wednesday Aug 17. 1859 Very warm. At work in office  
\*At prayer meeting at night

Thursday Aug 18. Very warm forenoon. After breakfast rode out to Mr Morris place by Demarce's to see Tom Kelly about coming to live with me. Turned quite cool in afternoon, so that when I went home to supper, had to change my clothing Mrs Ford & Mr Delano with us to supper.

Friday Aug 19. Very fine day. Much cooler than for some days past. At work in office. \*After tea Mrs B & I called at Rev Mr Schofields

Saturday Aug 20 Warm day. At work in office. Mrs B & I at Mr Bushnells after tea

y

Sunday Aug 21. 1859 Unwell—Took medicine last night, and not out to day. Some rain in the night, and very pleasant day

Monday Augt 22 Very fine day. Capt Sterne & Miss Riddle with us to dinner

\*Tuesday Augt 23 Fine morning, but from 7 to 8 A. M. became quite cold, tho the day was afterwards pleasant. Whilst at breakfast Cousin Rebecca Brown, wife of Dr Lloyd Brown of Jacksonville, her little daughter & her two brothers, young Warfields of Lexington, Ky, arrived \*At 4½ P. M. Emma & I started to Springfield by Rail Road—Mrs Brown & Company went with us on their way home to Jacksonville. Just at night reached the Illinois River & stuck on sand bar in crossing in ferry boat. Lost two hours and did not reach Springfield till 12 at night

Spring-  
field

Wednesday Augt 24, 1859 Reached here at midnight last night and stopped at American House. Came over at request of Auditor Dubois, to try & prevent Miller the Treasurer from resigning—it having been arranged that he should resign & Governor Bissell should appoint Dr Mack<sup>1</sup> his successor. Mack is in no sense fit for the office, and if the arrangement should be carried into effect it would be highly injurious to the interests of the State, & probably fatal to the Republican party in Illinois

Spring-  
field

In the forenoon I had an interview with Dubois & Miller at the Auditors office, when Miller gave me the most positive <sup>assurances</sup> ~~terms~~ that he would not resign, it being conceded by him upon an examination of the constitution that even if he did, Mack would not be eligible to appointment as his successor, he being a member of the Legislature—but Dubois & Lincoln do not appear to have much faith in the old mans promises, and suspicions are entertained that his resignation is already in Bissells hands.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Alonzo Mack, 1822-1871. Born in Vermont; lawyer; state representative, 1858; state senator, 1860-1868.

<sup>2</sup>Bissell appointed a friend of Lincoln, William Butler of Sangamon County, to succeed Miller. Just what was involved in this transaction cannot be said. The Democratic papers hinted at all sorts of frauds which Miller was too simple to detect. The Republican papers insisted that the heavy burden of the office work was the only reason. Browning indicates something was behind it. *Chicago Press and Tribune*, September 1, 3, 10, 1859; *Chicago Daily Democrat*, September 1, 1859.

Judge Davis & Mr Lemon of Bloomington arrived just before night, called to see me at the American, and remained with me till 11. O'clock at night.

It is understood that Mack is to be here tomorrow to take possession of the office. I cannot remain—Am obliged to leave for home at 5½ in the morning, but Judge Davis has promised me that he will stay over, prevent mischief if he can and write me tomorrow night. Emma and I were making calls in the afternoon

Thursday Augt 25, 1859 At 6 O'clock this morning Emma and I took the cars for home where we arrived about noon. Pleasant day.

Friday Augt 26. Warm day. At work in office. Miss Corey of Alton, Misses Austin, Mr Tucker of St. Louis, & others took tea and spent the evening with us—

Saturday Augt 27. Raining gently this morning, but warm At work in office. \*Continued to rain all day

Sunday Augt 28 Pleasant day. At Church A. M. and evening—Beautiful Aurora Borealis at night

Monday Augt 29 Very pleasant day, but evenings & mornings quite cool. At work in office

Tuesday—Augt 30, 1859 Cool, but pleasant day. At work in office

Wednesday Augt 31. Fine day. At work in office. Miss Sue Riddle who has been with us for the last week on a visit, left to day.

Rev Dr Harkey of Springfield & Mr Walcher of Hillsborough who are attending Lutheran Synod, came to day to stay with us during the sitting of Synod.

\*Thursday Sept 1 Cool, but pleasant day. At work in office. After tea called at Jaspers and spent an hour

Friday Sept 2. Another fine exhibition of Aurora Borealis last night—Pretty day, but so cold I have fire in office. At night attended discussion in the City Hall between Rev Dr Warren of the Presbyterian O. S. Church, and Mr Barker an infidel, of the

question "Has the influence of the Bible been good or evil." Dr Warren opened in a speech of an hour, clear, logical, well compacted, eloquent, upon the proposition that a religion of some sort, was a necessity of human nature—that no people ever had existed without one, and probably never would, and that the religion of the Bible was purer and better than any other &c Mr Barker followed for an hour—His speech was made up of the old, hackneyed arguments, if so they may be called—Adulteries of David & Solomon, hyocrisy of the pharisees, persecutions of religious denominations of each other, hanging witches in New England &c The debate was conducted with great decorum and is to be resumed tomorrow night

Quincy

Saturday Sept 3, 1859 Very cool day—Fire in office all day. \*At night again attended at the Hall to hear the continuation of the debate between Dr Warren & Mr Barker—They spoke each twice for half an hour each. Mr Barker was exceedingly abusive of all Bible characters, David, Solomon & others, and gave a rehash of the old hackneyed arguments

Dr Warren gave a very vivid and graphic sketch of the comparative condition of society in Christian and Heathen lands, and had decidedly the advantage on this evening. I regret that I will not be able to hear the conclusion of the matter.

Sunday Sept 4 At Church in the morning. Mr Harkey of the Lutheran Church preached At 1½ P M I took the Steamer Louisiana for Keokuk on my way to Mercer County to defend Hollingsworths for murder. Reached Keokuk at 8 P. M. and remained on board the boat all night

Keithsburg  
& Aledo

Monday Sept 5 1859 At 6 O'clock this morning took the cars to Montrose, and thence by the Steamer Keokuk to Keithsburg where I arrived about 4 P. M. and stopped at the Calhoun House—After tea called at Mr Ungles. Has been cold day—Fire necessary for comfort.

Tuesday Sept 6. After breakfast came in a two horse buggy with a young lawyer by the name of Griffin, to Aledo. Arrived at 10½ A M, and stopped at the Barton House. Very pleasant day. After tea called at Lewis Thompsons to see Miss Kate Ungles.



Wednesday Sept 7 A warmer and pleasanter day than we have had for several days past. Have not yet commenced the trial I came to attend to. Waiting for witnesses on behalf of prosecution. Argued a motion to quash 2<sup>nd</sup> Count of Indct this evening

Thursday Sept 8 1859 Fine warm day—Court overruled motion to quash—Prosecutor moved for continuance of the case against Joseph Hollingsworth which was granted by the Court, and we then commenced the trial against the other two Defts—

Friday Sept 9 Warm day—Some rain—Proceeding with the trial. Took tea with Judge Thompson

\*Saturday Sept 10—Very fine, warm day—Linen clothes necessary—Just before night thunder storm came up, with rain which continued till in the night At noon the Judge adjourned Court till Monday at 1½ p. m. Have not closed the evidence in the case agt Hollingsworths—Could have got through with the witnesses to day. I am very impatient to close the case and get away home

Sunday Sept 11. 1859 Very pretty day. No preaching at the Presbyterian place of worship this morning, and I attended the Methodist service at the Court House. At night was at Presbyterian service at the school house—Have no Bible, and have spent the day reading Ruskin

Monday Sept 12 Beautiful day, and warm. Court met at 1½ p. m. but the Judge very ill, and really not able to hold Court—Closed the evidence for Defts in about an hour & half & Court adjourned till 8½ tomorrow morning, when the prosecution is to call one, and only one witness in rebuttal.

Found Mr Erskine here when Court adjourned, but he left home soon after I did, and brings no news.

Tuesday Sept 13 1859 Beautiful day—Court met at 8½ a m. The prosecution called and examined Dr Snelling in rebuttal, and the evidence being closed Mr Stewart, States attorney, made his opening speech to the jury 2 hours 25 minutes, when

Court adjourned to 1½ P. M. At meeting of Court Mr Payne<sup>1</sup> commenced the argument in defence, and when he had spoken an hour & a half, the Judge who was very ill, fainted, cramped severely, and was rubbed, administered to, and manipulated for a long time before he was enough revived to be removed

Court was then adjourned till tomorrow morning at 8½ O'clock—and I sincerely hope that we may be able to close tomorrow

**Aledo** Wednesday Sept 14, 1859 The Judge was not able to come into Court this morning till 10 O'Clock, when Mr Payne concluded his speech, and I then addressed the jury for three hours—The Court house was crowded to overflowing—All could not get in. They had come from different parts of the country to hear me. Many ladies were in attendance, and I suppose I made what will pass for a good speech. The audience were nearly all in tears, some sobbing aloud I closed at 2½ P. M. when we adjourned for dinner. After dinner Mr Stewart addressed the jury in conclusion for two hours—instructions were then given and the jury took the case at 6 P. M.

**\*Aledo, Monmouth &c** Thursday Sept 15, 1859 At 8 O'clock this morning I started with Genl. Paine in his buggy for Monmouth on my way home. The jury had been out all night, and had not agreed, and we left them still deliberating. The day was pleasant and I had a delightful ride being delightfully entertained by the Genl. with anecdotes of his army experience in the Florida war. We reached Monmouth after 1 P. M. I dined with Paine and at 6 P. M. took the cars for Galesburg where Mr Erskine, who was on the cars, and myself staid all night, at an excellent hotel at the depot. Became much warmer after night than it had been during the day.

**Quincy** Friday Sept 6, 1859 Was up at 2½ O'clock this morning expecting to take the cars at 3, but as we had to wait for the down train from Chicago we did not get off till 5—The great crowd of passengers returning from the National fair at Chicago, had detained them. Reached home at 10 A. M. Warm fine day

<sup>1</sup>Eleazer Paine, 1815-1882. Graduate of West Point; served in Florida, 1839-1840; practiced law at Monmouth, Illinois, 1848-1861; served through the Civil War as colonel and brigadier general.

Saturday Sept 17. Heavy thunder storm, rain and hail just after breakfast but cleared off warm & bright At work in office

\*Sunday Sept 18 Warm day with rain. Just at night rained very heavily. At Church morning & evening. Only 7 persons in evening besides Dr Warren—Kept away by the rain

Quincy

Monday Sept 19, 1859 Has rained nearly all day. Now at night very cloudy, misty, and becoming cold. At work in office

Tuesday Sept 20 Cloudy, chilly, disagreeable day. At work in office

Wednesday Sept 21 Cloudy & cool in the morning, but bright & pleasant in afternoon At work in office

Thursday Sept 22 Bright, pretty, pleasant day, but cool enough for fire as it has been for some days past. Miss Abbe Perkins with us on a visit.

Friday Sept 23. Fine day—At work in office Mr Cleaves of Texas, Miss Perkins, Miss Billon &<sup>e</sup> with us to tea

Quincy

Saturday Sept 24. 1859 Remarkably fine, warm day. In afternoon went with Mrs B. to Sunday school pick nick, in our woods in North part of town.

Sunday Sept 25 Fine, warm day, but rain in afternoon. At Church morning & evening

\*Monday Sept 26 Very warm day. Rained heavily for half an hour in afternoon, but again cleared off handsomely. Mrs Allen, Mrs Stanley, Mrs Warren and Mrs Cady, the latter of Keokuk, and their husbands to tea with us.

Tuesday Sept 27. Cloudy, foggy morning, \*but bright pretty day. At 1 p. m. started on board Steamer Warsaw for St Louis to attend the fair. Bushnell and many others from Quincy on board—

St. Louis

Wednesday Sept 28, 1859 Ran on sand bar last night, and was delayed several hours—Arrived at St Louis about 8 O'clock this morning Went to Planters House, but they were full, and

I could not get a room. Mr Stickney told me Hon Edw: Bates<sup>1</sup> had been there enquiring for me, and wished me to call at his office. I went and he insisted upon me staying with him whilst I remained. Indeed my chief object in coming down was to see him, and converse with him upon political subjects and in reference to his being a candidate for the Presidency. He had written expressing a wish for an interview upon that subject. About 10 O'clock A. M. I went with him in his buggy to the fair grounds.

St. Louis

Upon arriving there we separated, first having appointed a place where we would meet at 3 P. M. I then went to the other side of the amphitheatre and spent several hours with Mrs Bennett, and Mrs Ihrie, who had a private saloon with refreshments, and very elevated private seats which gave an excellent view of everything inside of the amphitheatre. The show of fine cattle to day surpassed anything, and everything of the kind, I had ever seen—particularly milk cows & the Bulls, of which there were 17 entered for the \$1000 premium. This premium was won by a Bull belonging to Mr Alexander of Ky. Capt James N. Brown<sup>2</sup> of Sangamon County, Illinois, took five premiums on cattle to day—I do not know whether he competed for the \$1000 premium. At 3 P. M.

St. Louis

Mr Bates and I met, and soon after left the fair grounds and went to his house four miles from the City. Mr Gibson of St Louis, by appointment in the morning met us there, and we spent the time till 9 O'clock at night discussing political questions, and the best mode of bringing Judge Bates before the public as a candidate. I found Judge Bates a man of more force and vigor of intellect than I had supposed him to be, and that there was complete harmony in all our political opinions, inclusive of the tariff, and slavery in the abstract and in the Territories. He will be, to me, a most acceptable candidate for the Presidency, and I doubt not altogether the best man that the Republicans can support. Before

<sup>1</sup>Edward Bates, 1793-1869. Born in Virginia; moved to St. Louis, 1814; held various offices; representative in 20th Congress; offered a cabinet seat by Fillmore; presided over National Whig Convention, 1856; attorney general of United States, 1861-1864. He was Browning's candidate for the Republican nomination; his nativist tendencies made him impossible as a candidate.

<sup>2</sup>Well-known cattle man of Island Grove. Not related to the other Brown family.

St. Louis we parted for the night it was agreed that a Convention should be held of all those in Missouri opposed to the Administration, at which Mr Bates should be nominated—that a committee should be appointed to announce his nomination to him, and that in reply he should express his views upon slavery in the territories, power of Congress over the territories, Pacific Rail Road and public lands, and that his letter of reply should be published

He is to maintain the absolute power of Congress over the Territories inclusive of the question of slavery—to oppose the extension of slavery into free Territory—to denounce the African slave trade, and to advocate the construction of the Pacific Rail Road

St Louis Thursday Sept 29. 1859 Immediately after breakfast Mr Bates and myself started to Town—Before we reached there it was raining quite briskly, and continued with increased violence till near 11 O'clock. I parted with Mr Bates in the street, and went immediately on board the Steamer Die Vernon, and took passage for home. In consequence of the rain I declined going out to the fair grounds—Went into Town and did some errands for Mrs Browning—returned to the boat between 12 & 1 Oclock, and did not leave it again. \*At 4 P M we started home, with a very great crowd of passengers—About midnight ran upon a sand bar above Capeau Gris. where we stuck till 8 next morning.

Quincy Friday Sept 20, 1859 Raining quite heavily this morning when I got up, but cleared off in forenoon & quite a pretty day. At 8 A. M. got off sand bar, and continued our journey home, where we arrived at 7 P. M. Yesterday was as warm as summer but cooler to day—

Saturday Oct 1, Fine bright day. At work in office getting ready to go to Carthage to Court on Monday

\*Sunday Oct 2 Beautiful day—At Church in morning & evening

Monday Oct 3 Lovely day. At 6.20 A. M. took the cars for Plymouth on my way to Carthage to Court—From Plymouth came on in hack, and reached Carthage at 1 P. M. Stopped at Artois Hamiltons



\*Carthage Tuesday Oct 4, 1859 Beautiful day & warm. Attending Court—

Wednesday Oct 5 Lovely day—Attending Court

Thursday Oct 6. Quite a heavy frost last night. The first of the season, which has left any impression; but a most lovely day. Attending Court.

\*Friday Oct 7. Thunder & some rain in the forenoon, but bright & pleasant in afternoon. Attending Court

Saturday Oct 8. Fine day. Attending Court

Sunday Oct 9 Heavy frost last night—considerable ice this morning, but as lovely a day as could be. All the lawyers left last night for Quincy, Warsaw &<sup>e</sup> and I am alone At Church morning & evening

Carthage Monday Oct 10. 1859 Hazy & cool this morning, but a very delightful day. Attending Court

Tuesday Oct 11. Rather cloudy cool day Attending Court

Wednesday Oct 12 Very fine day. Attending Court

N B Judd Esqr<sup>1</sup> of Chicago here to night. Had long political talk with him. Assured him I would not, under any circumstances be a candidate for Governor—He wishes to be—Told him I was favorably inclined to him but had not made up my mind who I would go for

I urged Mr Bates claims for the Presidency. He is willing to go for him, if he shall appear to be the strongest man, and will put himself on Republican ground

Carthage Thursday Oct 13, 1859 Very warm, fine day. Late in afternoon thunder & pretty heavy rain, which continued till in the night. Intended to have gone home this P. M. that I might be one day at the County Fair which is progressing, but could not leave Court.

Friday Oct 14. Alternate sunshine & shade, but quite pleasant day. Attending Court

Saturday Oct 15 Very beautiful day. At 2 P. M. Wheat, Grimshaw & myself took a hack and went to Colmer—Took supper

<sup>1</sup>Judd was represented as the candidate of the Republican financial interests. *Chicago Daily Democrat*, September 1, 1859.

at Mrs Powells tavern, and then took the cars for home, where we arrived between 9 & 10 Oclock at night

Quincy &  
Carthage

Sunday October 16 1859 Fine warm day in forenoon, but raining from 3 P M till some time in the night At Church in the morning, but in consequence of the rain did not go out at night. Mrs Taylor of Keokuk with us to dinner.

Monday 17. At 6 this morning Grimshaw, Wheat & myself took the cars for Colmer where we arrived a little after 8. I breakfasted at Mrs Powells, and we then came on to Carthage in a hack which had been sent out for us. Roads muddy, but arrived here at 12½ Very warm until we got within two miles of Carthage when wind shifted to N. W. became suddenly cold, and we had to draw on our overcoats. Cold gusty afternoon

Carthage

Tuesday Oct 18 1859 Heavy white frost last night, but bright, beautiful, Autumn day. Attending Court

Wednesday Oct 19 Fine day, but became cloudy & cold towards night Bushnell came up to day. Attending Court

Thursday Oct 20 Frost this morning & bright, pleasant day. About 11 A. M. adjourned Court for the Term \*After dinner Grimshaw, Wheat, Harris & myself took a hack to Colmar—Got supper at Mrs Powell's tavern—then took the Rail Road home, where I arrived between 9 & 10

Friday Oct 21 At home at work in office—Pleasant day, but somewhat cool

Quincy

Saturday Oct 22, 1859 Very lovely day—At work in office

Sunday Oct 23 Very fine day. Dr Warren being from home I went in the morning to Mr Kings Church with Mrs Taylor of Keokuk. She dined with us and in the afternoon Mrs B & I walked out to Asburys with her and remained to tea.

Monday Oct 24 Very fine day—Court commenced to day.

Tuesday Oct 25 Very fine and very warm day Mrs Browning & Emma went to day to St Louis with Mrs Ford on Steamer Die Vernon I dined with them on board Attending Court

Quincy

Wednesday Oct 26, 1859 Warm, bright day with high wind. Attending Court

Thursday Oct 27 Much cooler than it has been, but bright—  
Attending Court Mrs B & Emma returned from St Louis to day

Friday Oct 28 Cold, cloudy day. Attending Court—

Saturday Oct 29 Cold & cloudy. At 2 P. M. Court adjourned  
till Monday

Sunday Oct 30 At church morning & evening.

Monday Oct 31 Very heavy white frost last night, and bright,  
lovely day, though cool. Attending Court

Quincy Tuesday Nov 1. 1859 White frost last night, and bright  
~~Monday~~

morning, but clouded about noon. Attending Court. At night  
at donation party at Dr Warrens,

Wednesday Nov 2 Very fine, warm day. Attending Court.

Thursday Nov 3. Lovely day. Attending Court. Mr & Mrs  
Sterne dined with us

\*Friday Nov 4 A very warm day, threatenng rain Attending  
Court

Saturday Nov 5 Cooler than yesterday but bright, beautiful  
day. Attending Court Mr & Mrs Wm Sterne dined with, us,  
having brought Emma home. James Pollard of Missouri also  
with us to dinner †& all night† Attending Court

\*Quincy Sunday Nov 6. 1859 Fine day. At Church morning & eve-  
ning. Mr Macomb of Lewistown dined with us

Monday Nov 7. Very warm day & dusty. Attending Court

Tuesday Nov 8. Cloudy—rained a little. Attending Court  
—Election day

Wednesday Nov 9 Quite cool—very cloudy & rain through  
the forenoon. The Judge & some of the lawyers went to Palmyra  
on Rail Road excursion. I have been hard at work in the office  
all day—

Thursday Nov 10 Fine day. Attending Court

Friday Nov 11 Attending Court. Mr & Mrs Cox with us  
to dinner Rained at night

Quincy Saturday Nov 12, 1859 Turned cold last night, and snow fell  
to depth of two or three inches—Quite a cold, raw, cloudy day.

Attended Court in forenoon—then adjourned till Monday. Rev Mr Chase of Macomb with us to dinner

\*Sunday Nov 13 Pleasant, but tolerably cold day. At Church morning & afternoon

Monday Nov 14. Mild & thawing. Attending Court. After tea called at Mrs Greelys to see about school

Tuesday Nov 15 Very bright, pleasant day—Attending Court

\*Wednesday Nov 16

Thursday Nov 17

Friday Nov 18 Attending Court

Quincy \*Saturday Nov 19, 1859 Fine day—Court closed its term to day, and adjourned till court in course

Sunday Nov 29 Warm, cloudy day, with a little rain. At Church A M & P. M.

Monday Nov 21 Cloudy, misty, warm day. Miss Greely commenced her school this morning

\*Tuesday Nov 22 Quite pleasant day. At work in office

\*Wednesday Nov 23 Cool, cloudy day—but not cold—not near freezing point. Took medicine last night and have not done much to day, but have been at office all day

\*Quincy Thursday Nov 24. 1859 Thanksgiving day. At 10½ A M attended Dr Warrens' Church and heard him preach—Some thunder this morning, and raining most of the day. Asbury & all his family & Miss Jones of Canton Mo: dined with us—Alice and Miss Jones staid all night

Friday Nov 25 Rained almost all night & raining this morning—Wind from the South, \*and quite warm till about 3 P. M. when the wind shifted, and it became quite cool—

Saturday Nov 26 White frost last night, and bright pretty day. At work in office Miss Greely with us to tea x x x

Sunday Nov 27 Cloudy, but not very cold. At Church A M & P. M

\*Quincy Monday Nov 28. 1859 Very heavy white frost last night Beautiful, bright, bracing morning and fine day. \*At work in office x x x

Tuesday Nov 29 Fine day. At work in office

Wednesday Nov 30 Cloudy, but not cold—Very pleasant day. At work in office

Thursday Decr 1 Turned quite cold last night and hard frozen this morning—Keen winter—freezing all day. At work in office

Friday Decr 2. Very cold. At work in office Mrs B & selt at Gilpins to tea, and small party

\*Saturday Decr 3 Something milder than yesterday but still cold & dry. At work in office

Quincy

Sunday Decr 4, 1859 Cool winter day. At Church A. M. and P. M. At night went with Miss Anna Greely to Mr Billings Church to hear him on the personal character of the Devil. The sermon, or rather haraunge seemed to be designed to disprove the inspiration of the scriptures, and sounded to my ear very blasphemous. I do not wish to hear any more such preaching.

Monday Decr 5 Cloudy, but not very cold. Misted & snowed a little after noon. At work in office

\*Tuesday Decr 6 Quite the coldest day of the season. Below zero. At night attended festival of Woodland Home at the City Hall. Very cold night, and very good attendance

Quincy

Wednesday Decr 7 1859 Moderating—At work in office x

Thursday <sup>Nov 8</sup> Still moderating. At work in office x  
x x x x x

Friday Decr 9 Lovely day—bright, and very mild—\*At work  
<sup>Nov 9</sup> in office

\*Saturday Decr 10 Mild, bright, lovely day. At work in office. \*Jno C. Cox came this evening, to stay with us till Mrs Cox's return, who has gone East to spend the winter

Sunday Decr 11 Bright, beautiful day. At Church A M & P M.



Monday Decr 12 Quite cool again and cloudy this morning. Mrs Roger Ireland and family at my house all night on their way to Kansas, where Mr Ireland has preceded them.

Tuesday Decr 13, 1859 Cloudy, quite cold and snowing a very little At work in office

Wednesday Decr 14 White frost this morning—bright, pretty day, and mild

Thursday Decr 15 Very fine day. At work in office

Friday Decr 16 Mild as spring—At work in office

\*Saturday Decr 17 Very pleasant day, but cloudy looking like snow. At work in office

\*Sunday Decr 18 Just snow enough this morning to whiten the ground—Trying to snow all day—Dr Warren absent and had no preaching A M. In afternoon Mr Taylor the methodist minister preached—Did not go out at night

Monday December 19 1859 Cold & cloudy—spitting snow a little through the day. At work in office

Tuesday Decr 20 Dry, cold day—I think the coldest of the season—At work in office

Wednesday Decr 21 Cold—Fine snow falling nearly all day, but does not exceed an inch in depth at night At work in office

Thursday 22 About two inches very dry snow this morning, and very cold—Snow crisp under foot all day At work in office

Friday 23 Not so cold as yesterday—Cloudy & threatening snow

\*Saturday 24 Bright, cold day. At work in office

Sunday Decr 25. 1859 Bright, beautiful day as mild as spring. Cox, Jake & James Caldwell & Wm Shipley<sup>1</sup> to breakfast with us, and all happy in the distribution of presents at the breakfast table. The young ones were in our room before day to rifle their stockings of Santa Claus' bounty. At Church A M & P. M.

<sup>1</sup>William Shipley was a protégé of Browning's; killed in 1861. His death was said to have affected Browning very deeply.

Monday Decr 26. Lovely day—At work in office. Took Christmast dinner at 4 p. m. Cox & Delano with us besides our own family. Joab Green came in just as we were rising from the table, and took his dinner also.

Tuesday Decr 27 Some colder than it was yesterday, and cloudy. At work in office

Quincy

Wednesday Decr 28 1859 Cloudy & mild—Misted a very little at night. At work in office

Thursday Decr 29 Quite cloudy all day & mild. A very little snow in the morning At work in office

Friday Decr 30 Bright cold day. At work in office getting ready for Chicago & Springfield

Saturday Decr 31 Very cold morning—perhaps the coldest of the season, but bright, beautiful day. At work in office

Quincy Sunday Jan'y 1, 1860 Bright, beautiful day, but the coldest of the season. At Church A M & P. M. Bushnell dined with Cox & myself & family at 5 P. M.

Monday Jan'y 2. Bright morning & very cold, but moderating—became quite pleasant by the afternoon At 4½ P. M. I took the cars for Chicago to attend U. S. Court—Col Richardson & E M Davis along. At Galesburg got into a sleeping car, and had comfortable night—slept well

Tuesday Jan'y 3. At 6 A M reached Chicago & stopped at Briggs House—Have Room No. 9. Attended Court, and did some work in the forenoon—Made out docket &<sup>9</sup> Has been bright & rather mild day for this Country

Chicago Wednesday Jan'y 4. 1860 Bright day. No jury has yet been summoned, but I am busy in the preparation of cases. Worked at Court room in forenoon on cases there, and in afternoon in my own room preparing argument in Hall vs Papin, in Sup Court of United States<sup>1</sup>

\*Thursday Jan'y 5 Pretty cold day. At work preparing cases.

Friday Jan'y 6. Has been raining & sleeting all day. At work preparing cases

Saturday Jan'y 7 Rained considerably last night, and sleeted—Streets and side walks one glare of ice. Cloudy, and mild, and thawing all day. At work preparing cases

Chicago Sunday Jan'y 8 1860 Raw, chilly, disagreeable day, but hardly cold enough to freeze. At Mr Henry's Church morning & evening—Wentworth came and took tea with me, and had a long talk about politics.

Monday Jan'y 9. Cloudy, a little misty & thawing—At work preparing cases. Finished to night preparation of argument in

<sup>1</sup>For the earlier history of this case, see entry for July 18, 1855, *ante*, 193.

Hall vs Papin in Sup Court U. S. and have it ready for the printer. Baker and Turner<sup>1</sup> called and had talk about politics. They wish me to run for Governor, as Wentworth, and many others up here do—but I cannot, and will not.

\*Tuesday Jany 10 Soft, thawing, drizzly day—but turned colder at night, and snowed a little

\*Chicago

Wednesday Jany 11, 1860 Hard frozen this morning & pretty cold day. We have yet no jury because we have no marshall—Judge Sidney Breeze<sup>2</sup> has been appointed, but rumor says he wont accept. I am still at work in the preparation of cases

\*Thursday Jany 12. Fine day—thawing a little in the sun. At work as usual. After supper took a game of Eucre in Dr Mac-Vickers room—Then Col Buford called and spent an hour with me giving a history of his courtship and marriage

Friday Jany 13 Fine, pleasant winter day. At work as usual.

Breakfasted at the Richmond House with Col and Mrs Buford

Chicago

\*Thompson Campbell Esqr, who was Secretary of State under Gov Ford's admn then democratic member of Congress from the Galena District, and afterwards appointed Land Commissioner for California, under President Pierces Administration, got into a political conversation with me this evening, and among other subjects spoken of was an article which appeared in the State Register in 1844, (then edited by the late Wm Walters<sup>3</sup>) just after Walters

<sup>1</sup>Probably Thomas J. Turner, 1815-1874. Came to Illinois, 1836; elected to Congress, 1846, as a Democrat.

<sup>2</sup>Sidney Breese, 1800-1878. Born in New York; graduate of Union College; came to Kaskaskia, 1818; held various state offices; justice of Supreme Court, 1841-1843, 1857-1878; United States senator, 1843-1849; supported Adams in the election of 1828 and was accused of distributing "coffin hand bills" against Jackson, which embarrassed him when he later turned Democrat; leaned strongly to the southern wing of the Democratic party, running as Buchanan candidate for senator, 1858, in the hope of defeating Douglas.

<sup>3</sup>William Walters, 1802-1846, was a veteran Democratic editor. He had first edited the *Wilmingtonian* in Delaware, had been one of Duff Green's subordinates in Washington, had come to Illinois as editor of the *Illinois State Register* in 1836, first at Vandalia and then at Springfield. Under Walters the *Register* became the leading paper of the Democratic party in Illinois. Walters quarrelled with Wentworth and other members of the delegation in Congress; in 1846 he resigned as editor, enlisted for the

Chicago

and Douglass had made a visit to Genl. Jackson at the Hermitage. That article stated that in the interview between Genl. Jackson and Douglass, the Genl. thanked him for his speech in Congress on the proposition to refund the fine which had been imposed upon him for his conduct at New Orleans, and said to him that he was the only man who had ever placed his defence upon the proper ground—that until he read that speech he had always had doubts himself of the legality and propriety of his conduct, but that now all doubts were removed—he felt vindicated in his own judgment, and that his conscience was relieved.

Campbell told me that Walters frequently, before his death, said to him that that article was a *lie* from beginning to end—that he wrote it to help Douglass, but that there was not a word of truth in it, and that no such conversation ever occurred between Genl. Jackson & Douglass.

Chicago

He said Walters would laugh about it until the tears would run down his cheeks, as a capital joke, the article having been extensively copied into other papers. Campbell further said he had recently told Charley Lamphere,<sup>1</sup> of the statement made by Walters & that he did not deny its truth. Wentworth came in after tea, and remained an hour or so talking politics—about the libel suits of Judd against him &c

At an earlier hour in the evening Thomas I Turner had been in talking upon the same subjects

Saturday Jany 14. Mild, beautiful day. At work in Court

\*Sunday Jany 15 Fine mild day. At Mr Henrys Church in the morning—Wentworth called and invited me, and I went with him to Mr Pattersons Church at night. He came back with me and staid till 10 Oclock—

Mexican War and died soon after. He impresses one as able, genuinely devoted to Democratic principles but ensnared by drunkenness and tempted by poverty into discreditable acts. The article in question is in the *Illinois State Register* for June 6, 1845, headed "Interesting Incident." In the file in the State Historical Library in Springfield, which formerly was the newspaper's office file, the article has been clipped out. A paper pasted in the place has the following notation in Lanphier's handwriting: "Interesting Incident Douglas interview with Gen Jackson at the Hermitage. Out for D."

<sup>1</sup>Charles Lanphier, 1820-1903; born in Virginia; brother-in-law of Walters; editor and publisher of the *State Register*, 1845-1863.



Monday Jan'y 16 Fine day. At work in Court At night attended Concert in the Dining Hall at Briggs House given by Mrs Bostwick & others

\*Chicago Tuesday Jan'y 17. 1860 Bright, but tolerably cold day. Attending Court. To day I mailed to Mr Carroll, Clk Sup Court U. S. 13 copies of my argument in case of Hall vs Papin At Rev Mr Henrys to tea

Wednesday Jan'y 18. Cloudy & pretty cold winter day. A very little snow fell last night Have no marshall & no jury. I have accomplished all I can in Court without a jury, and expect to start home at 11 O'clock to night \*At 11 Oclock took the cars for home

at

Thursday Jan'y 19 Went to bad last night at Chicago and got up this morning at Galesburg, where I breakfasted, and arrived at home at 12. Found all well. Lovely day. Mild as Spring—Mrs B & I took a ride in the afternoon

Quincy Friday Jan'y 20 1860 Warm, beautiful day—Fire hardly necessary. At work in office. Mrs Warren & self and Dr and Mrs Warren took tea at Dr Stanleys.

\*Saturday Jan'y 21. Another fine, mild day. At work in office getting ready to go to Springfield on Monday

Sunday Jan'y 22. Beautiful day. Mild as Spring At Church A. M. & P. M. without overcoat.

Monday Jan'y 23. Still very mild, but a little hazy. \*At 4½ p. m. took the cars for Springfield where I go to attend Supreme and U S Court. Arrived about 11 O'clock at night and stopped at American house, Room No 30½ Mrs Austin with me thus far on her way to St Louis—Cris Brown met her at the cars & took charge of her

Spring-  
field

Tuesday Jan'y 24 1860 Warm, cloudy day—threatning rain—At work in Court room & law Library

Wednesday Jan'y 25 Something colder—quite cloudy—snowed a very little to day. Attending Court

Thursday Jan'y 26 Snowing this morning, and continued till about an inch had fallen, but not cold.—Arguing cases in Supreme Court—took tea with Mrs Dr Brown

Friday Jan'y 27 Hard frozen this morning and snow crisp under foot: but bright day and thawing—Arguing cases in Supreme Court.

Saturday Jan'y 28 Bright, mild day, thawing considerably. Arguing cases in Supreme Court.

Sunday Jan'y 29 Mild, sloppy day. At Dr Browns Church in the morning & Mr Jennings in the evening

Monday Jan'y 30, 1860 Very pleasant day. Arguing cases in Supreme Court. After tea called at Mr Ridgelys and spent an hour or two.

Tuesday Jan'y 31 Turned cold last night, and every thing hard frozen this morning. Very cold day. Arguing cases in Supreme Court. Held a night session, and argued one case after night.

\*Wednesday Feb'y 1. Very cold day. I closed the argument of the last case in the Supreme Court to day at noon

About night the judges announced decisions in all the cases they had made up their minds upon, and adjourned Court. After tea I went to Lincolns, and spent an hour or two

Thursday Feb'y 2 1860 Bushnell started home this morning and I went in the United States Court to work. Took tea at Dr Browns

Friday Feb'y 3 Fine day. Trying cases in U S Court. At a small party to tea at Dubois

Saturday Feb'y 4 Fine day. Trying cases in U S Court in forenoon.

\*At 3 P. M. in company with Jack Smith started to Island Grove on a visit to Capt Jas: N Brown. Took the rail road to Berlin. On the way down Jay Smith joined us. At Berlin Capt Brown met us with his carriage, four miles from his house. We drove over, and all went to Esqr Jas: D Smiths to supper, where we met Dr Lloyd Brown & wife—Capt Browns family & Mrs Jack Smith

Sunday Feb'y 5, 1860 I came home with Capt Brown and family last night, as did Jack Smith & his wife. Commenced raining about midnight, and continued till noon to day. This morn-

Spring-  
field

\*Spring-  
field

Spring-  
field

ing went with Capt Brown to his stables to see his stock. The finest show of cattle I ever saw. Among others I saw his Bull Alfred & Cow Tulip, said to be the finest bull & cow in America, perhaps in the world. Also saw some fine South down sheep Alfred is four years old & weighs 2200 lbs. Tulip weighs 2000. She now has her seventh calf. The present

is sucking, and is sold <sup>at</sup> for \$500—The other six he sold at wean-  
the calf is sold for

ing time for \$2250, and has taken a \$1000 in premiums on Tulip. He expects to get seven more calves from her. He has a very

Spring-  
field

large amount of silver plate in his house, which he has received \$3000 worth as premiums on his cattle, consisting of pitchers, urns, waiters, baskets, goblets, knives, forks, spoons &c Has 2000 acres in his farm, and nearly all of it in grass. After dinner I went home with Dr Lloyd Brown & his wife who live six miles distant & staid all night.

Monday Feby 6<sup>th</sup> Frozen a little this morning. After breakfast Dr Brown took me to Island Grove depot, about 1½ miles distant, and I took the cars & returned to Springfield. At Berlin Jack Smith and his family got aboard having come from Capt Browns this morning. Mrs Smith & children stopped at David Brown's. The morning was dismal but the day turned out to be quite pleasant

Spring-  
field

Tuesday Feby 7 1860 Hard frozen & pretty cold this morning, but a bright pleasant day. Finished my business in Court to day, and would start home in the morning, but the State Central Republican Committee meets here tomorrow to fix the time of holding the state convention &c and I have promised to remain to advise with them. In the afternoon took a walk x x x x x and then went to Dr Brown's to tea.

\*Wednesday Feby 8 Very fine day. State Central Republican Committee met here to day, and fixed upon Decatur as the place of holding the State Convention, and May 23 as the time. In afternoon called on Gov Bissell, and solicited appointment as Commr of the Penitentiary for Cox in place of Butler who resigned today—Doubtful whether I succeed.

At night Lincoln came to my room, and we had a free talk about the Presidency. He thinks I may be right in supposing Mr Bates to be the strongest and best man we can run—that he can get votes even in this County that he cannot get—and that there is a large class of voters in all the free States that would go for Mr Bates, and for no other man. He says it is not improbable that by the time the National convention meets in Chicago he may be of opinion that the very best thing that can be done will be to nominate Mr Bates. Dick Yates and Philips<sup>1</sup> also think Mr Bates stronger in this State than any other man who has been named. I hope to start home at 6 O'clock in the morning.

\*Quincy Thursday Feby 9. 1860 At 6 O'clock this morning took the cars for home—Grimshaw & wife & Miss Julia Enos in company. He left us to go through Pike, and they came on with me. Reached home between 12 and 1 O'clock—Found all well, and Cousin Griffin Theobald of St Louis at my house. Our friend Cox who has been spending the winter with us left us to day & returned home. Has been a bright, but pretty cold day.

Friday Feby 10 Bright morning, but pretty cold. In afternoon quite cloudy and threatening rain—At work in office

Saturday Feby 11 Bright, cold day. At work in office

\*Quincy Sunday Feby 12. 1860 Fine, mild day. At Church A. M. and P. M.

Monday Feby 13. Very mild and Spring like. At work in office

Tuesday Feby 14. Turned cold & froze last night Commenced snowing about noon, and fell fast for some hours. At work in office

\*Wednesday Feby 15 About 2½ or 3 inches snow this morning. About 9 A. M. snowed very heavily for a while, but the sun soon broke out, and has been thawing rapidly balance of the day At work in office

<sup>1</sup>Probably David L. Phillips, 1823-1880. First a minister, then a land agent for the Illinois Central; an opponent of the Kansas-Nebraska bill in 1854; one of the founders of the Republican party; United States marshal for southern Illinois, 1861-1866; Liberal Republican in 1872.

Thursday Feby 16 Pretty hard frozen this morning, and tolerably cold day, though thawing. At work in office

\*Quincy

Friday Feby 17. 1860 Frozen & pretty cold this morning, but about noon commenced raining and continued without intermission thro the day. At work in office. Gilpin & wife with us to supper.

Saturday Feby 18 Turned cold in the night and hard frozen this morning, but bright day & thawing. At work in office

\*Sunday Feby 19 Bright, pretty day. At Church A. M. & P. M. Mr & Mrs Warner of Mo: and Mrs Harris with us to tea.

Monday Feby 20 Bright, beautiful and Spring like. \*At 4½ P. M. took the cars for Knoxville to attend to some cases pending there in the Court which is now sitting, and which Mr Bushnell wishes me to take charge of. He went up on a special train yesterday P. M. Arrived at Galesburg at 9½ P. M. where I met Mr Bushnell who had been down to Knoxville, and told me the necessity did not exist of my going any further as the cases would not come on for 10 days.

Met Lawrence and Gilpin at Galesburg—Lawrence and I sat up till midnight conversing upon political subjects and prospects, both being anxious for the nomination of Mr Bates for the Presidency, and cooperating in our efforts to accomplish it.

Tuesday Feby 21. At 9 A. M. Lawrence and I took the cars and went down to Knoxville. Met Mr Johnston of Peoria, and I went with him to Mr Millers to dinner. Indeed one great reason of my coming down here to day was to see Mrs Miller, who is a very valued friend The day has been Spring like and delightful At 8½ P M returned to Galesburg on cars Raining pretty heavily

\*Quincy

Wednesday Feby 22. 1860 Rained all last night. Expected to leave Galesburg for home this morning at 7 O'clock, but the down train from Chicago was detained at Bureau bridge, and did not get away till 10 A. M. and reached home at 3 P. M. Commenced raining again towards noon & continued till in the night—then turned to snow—Saw and conversed with many Republicans yesterday, all of whom are for Mr Bates for the Presidency, and I have great hopes that this State will go for him in Convention. If it does it will secure his nomination.



Thursday Feby 23. Ground white with snow & frozen this morning, but thawing rapidly through the day. Mrs B & I called at Grimshaws after tea to see Miss Enos but she was gone

Quincy Friday Feby 24. 1860 Bright morning, but clouded up and snowed a little in P. M. At work in office. Mr B & I with some friends to tea at Col Richardsons

Saturday Feby 25 Quite pleasant day. At work in office

Sunday Feby 26 Pleasant, spring like day. At Church A M & P M, and at night at Mr Emery's Church to hear Mr Avery.

Monday Feby 27, Fine day, but towards night clouded, and commenced raining a little. At work in office Mr & Mrs Cox with us to tea—Miss Emma Shropshire also at our house. Came over on her way to Toledo, and stopped for a day or two

Quincy Tuesday, Feby 28, 1860 Warm, cloudy, drizzly day. At work, in office. Had about 20 friends to tea, and to spend the evening

Wednesday Feby 29 Something cooler than yesterday. A cloudy, muddy, dismal day. At work in office

Thursday March 1. 1860 Very mild, beautiful day. At work in office.

Friday March 2 Another mild, fine day. At work in office. Miss Shropshire left for Toledo at 4½ P. M.

Saturday March 3 Something cooler than yesterday, but bright, pretty day. At work in office. Mrs B & self with Mr & Mrs Cox & some others, took tea at C M Woods. Choir met at our house

\*Quincy Sunday March 4. 1860 Bright, mild, pretty day. At Church in the morning. Between 1 & 2 P. M. took Steamer Louisiana for Warsaw on my way to Carthage to attend Court. Reached Warsaw before night, and stopped at Wilsons tavern.

Monday March 5. After breakfast took rail road and came to Carthage. Stopped at Artois Hamiltons. \*At work in Court

Tuesday March 6 Rained last night, and raining this morning. Warm day, and turned off fair before night. At work in Court

\*Wednesday, March 7 Fine, beautiful day. Hard at work in Court—Turned cold at night

Thursday March 8 Somewhat cool & cloudy. Closed to day the case of Hill vs English & Wilcox, for malpractice which we have been trying for three days—I was defending—verdict for Defendants

Carthage Friday, March 9, 1860 Cool, but pleasant day. At work in Court.

Saturday March 10 Frost this morning—Bright coolish day. Attending Court in forenoon. \*At 3 P. M. took the cars & came out to Keokuk. Stopped at the Leighton House—Called for a few minutes to see Mrs Baldwin, and after tea called at Mr Taylors & sat till 9 O'clock

Sunday March 11. Very mild, beautiful day. Went to old school Church in the morning. A methodist brother preached. Went home with Mrs Taylor to dinner, and remained till 3 P. M. Between 4 & 5 P. M. went to Mr Eaton's to see Mrs Baldwin & remained to tea. After tea Mrs Baldwin and I called on Mrs Van Antwerp and sat an hour, and got back to my room at the hotel at 9 O'clock

\*Carthage

Monday March 12. 1860 Crossed the River after breakfast on my way back to Carthage, and waited an hour and a half on this side for the cars. Cold, disagreeable morning with the wind from the Northwest. Between 10 & 11 A. M. reached Carthage & resumed our labours in Court.

Two or three years ago Keokuk was thought, by its inhabitants, to be the most promising City in America. Property reached enor-

town

mous prices, buildings were being rapidly erected—the inhabitants all thought themselves rich, business was over down, and everything so inflated that it finally exploded. Now many houses are vacant—cellars & foundations unbuilt upon, are falling into ruin—the population of the place is greatly reduced, being now I think not more than 8000 or 10000 whereas they formerly claimed from 15000 to 20000. The streets are empty and quiet and hardly business enough doing to pay rents and insurances. It

Carthage

presents a melancholy picture of the folly of a frog trying to expand itself to the dimensions of an ox.

Tuesday March 13 Large white frost this morning, and very pretty day. At work in Court

Wednesday March 14 Frost, with hazy Indian summer look followed by a fine day. At work in Court

Thursday March 15 Very fine day indeed. At work in Court

\*Friday March 16. Fine day. Attended Court A. M. At 3 P. M. took the cars for Keokuk on my way home. Took tea at Mr Baldwins in Keokuk, & at 12 at night went aboard of Steamer Quincy

\*Quincy

Saturday March 17, 1860 Was at Warsaw this morning when I got up to breakfast—The boat was taking freight at most of the Towns, and I did not get home till 4 P. M. About 3 P. M. landed at West Quincy, and crossed over in Ferry boat. Fine day.

Sunday March 18. Dr Warren being from home I did not attend Church to day. At night went to Mr Kings Church. The morning was bright. In afternoon clouded up and rained a little, blew some, and cleared up again early in the night

Monday March 19 Very lovely day. Busy in the office writing letters & till 11 O'clock A. M. when the packet arrived, and I went aboard on my way back to Carthage, Court not having yet adjourned This morning received news of the death of Gov Bissell, who died yesterday at Springfield, of Neumonia. He has been paralytic, and a great sufferer for some years. He was so when he was elected Governor. For several years past he has been incapable of walking, except a few steps occasionally.

Quincy

He was a man of considerable talent and great energy of character—Had been in Congress from one of the Districts in the State, and Commanded a Regiment in the Mexican war.

\*Got away from Quincy at 3 P. M. and landed at Warsaw just at night. Stopped at Wilsons tavern Called to see Mrs Jno: E Johnson & her daughter Miss Anna, and sat till after 9 O'clock

\*Carthage

Tuesday March 20 1860 Bright but quite cool—Windy March day. At 8½ took cars for Carthage where I arrived at 10 A. M. and attended Court the rest of the day

Wednesday March 21 Frost this morning, and cool day. Attending Court. Grimshaw and I went to Alex: Sympsons to supper, and staid till 8 O'clock

Thursday March 22 Hazy, pleasant day. Attending Court.

Friday, March 23. Adjourned Court, and at 3 P. M. took the cars for Warsaw on my way home. Took tea at Wagleys and remained there till 10 oclock at night. Then went to Cox's ware house to wait for packet. Dr Chandler & daughter, Mr Freeman & wife myself and some others sat up all night waiting for the boat, but she did not come. I did not sleep at all. Cold, windy day.

\*Quincy

Saturday March 24, 1860 Just at day break this morning the packet Quincy arrived, and we all went on board—Ran up to Keokuk & remained there until 10 A. M. taking on freight. Mrs Henry Bull, & Mrs George Ladd of Quincy, and Mr Hill & lady & sister & several other ladies of Davenport came aboard here. The day bright but cool—Were much delayed at various places receiving freight, and did not get home till 6 P. M. James Lindley Esqr of Davenport was also on board

Sunday March 25 Bright, pretty morning, but clouded up  
4

before noon, and became quite cold. At church Forenoon and afternoon, but not out after night.

Quincy

Monday March 26, 1860 The ground a little whitened with snow this morning, but rather a pleasant day. The Circuit Court Commenced its session this morning.

Tuesday March 27 Heavy frost last night, but pleasant day, tho' cool. Attending Court—Adjourned at 4½ P. M. and Mrs B and I rode out 8<sup>th</sup> street to where we have some improvements being made.

\*Wednesday March 28 Frost last night, but pleasant day. Attending Court

\*Thursday March 29 Bright, delightful day, and quite warm. Attending Court. Commenced the case vs Chamberlin for forgery this p. m. I had agreed to assist in taking the testimony, but have to leave for Missouri in the morning.

Quincy &  
Missouri

Friday March 30, 1860 Bright, warm day, but high wind from the South & very dusty. Expected to start this morning for Missouri to visit sister Ann, but the omnibus failed to come for me, and I was disappointed. At 3 p. m. crossed the river and took the cars for Easton 12 miles East of St Joseph. Did not get away from Palmyra till 6 p. m. Went into a sleeping car and went to bed—consequently knew nothing of the country over which I passed.

Saturday, March 31. About 5 O'clock this morning got out at Easton—breakfasted at a miserable tavern—then hired two horse buggy and driver to take me to Dr Robertsons 7 or 8 miles South of Easton where I arrived at 9 a. m. Country very handsome, rich rolling prairie but sparsely settled.

Missouri

Sunday Apl. 1 1860 Sister Ann is not able to sit up, and has not been for some time, but is not dangerously ill—and though emaciated is reasonably cheerful. She has four very fine children—Willie six yrs old—Annie four, Marcus & Mary younger. Dr Robertson has 488 acres of land here, almost all timber, and very fertile and beautiful. Last evening the wind shifted to the North, and became quite cool. Today is very clear & bright, and pleasant in the sun, though quite a cool wind is prevailing

Monday Apl. 2 Quite cool this morning, but the wind shifted to the South & by noon it was a warm Apl day—but windy and dusty. At 3 p. m. took leave of them at Dr Robertsons, and came on horseback to Easton to take the cars home to night. Alfred, one of the Drs black boys came with me on another horse and carried my valise

\*Quincy

Tuesday Apl. 3. 1860 At 10 Oclock last night took the cars at Easton for home, & arrived here at noon to day. Very fine day.

Wednesday Apl. 4. Rained a little last night and very windy to day. Attending Court. Mrs Ford and Mrs Glenn with us to tea.



Thursday Apl. 5 Very fine day. Attending Court—At night large Republican meeting at Concert Hall. Grimshaw, Prentis and myself made speeches

\*Friday Apl. 6 Very warm day—Attending Court—At night attended Church with Mrs Browning

Saturday Apl. 7 Warm as June—Dandelions in bloom—Asparagus for dinner. Attending Court

\*Quincy

Sunday Apl. 8, 1860 Very warm day. At Church A M and P. M. Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Shearer of Palmyra preached. He and his wife with us all night. W<sup>m</sup> Shipley joined the church to day. Judge Sibley went home on Saturday—has not returned & Court not in session

Monday Apl 9 Some thunder & a little rain this morning. ~~Some thunder~~  
Judge Sibley went home on Saturday, has not returned, and no Court to day. Mr & Mrs Shearer left after dinner—

Tuesday Apl. 10. Cool, cloudy, dismal day. Town full of people from Missouri attending Rail road celebration.

I was attending Court. At night at Republican meeting at City Hall—Germans speaking—

Fine rain just after night, continuing for several hours—gentle & refreshing

Quincy

Wednesday Apl 11, 1860 Lovely day, after the refreshing rain of last night. Attending Court during the day, and at prayer meeting with Mrs B. at night

Thursday Apl. 12 Very fine day. Attending Court. At night at large party at Roots—Went home with Mrs Gilpin, Mrs Cox in Company

Friday Apl. 13. As fine a spring day as ever shone. Attending Court

Saturday Apl. 14 Attending court in forenoon. At night attended very large Republican meeting in State Street, where we had bon fire and German speeches Then marched to the Court House where I, and Jonas & others spoke—

Quincy Sunday Apl. 15, 1860 At Church in A. M. Did not go out in  
 Men P. M. At night Emma and I at Mr King's Church A little rain  
 in afternoon and at night.

Monday Apl. 16. Corporation election and no Court—Judge  
 having gone home yesterday. Very warm—Rain & hail in after-  
 noon Dr & Mrs Warren & Mr & Mrs Batchelder at our house to  
 tea Democrats elected their ticket by very small majorities.<sup>1</sup>

Tuesday Apl. 17 Quite cool this morning, but pleasant day.  
 Attending Court Judge Sibley, Cha<sup>s</sup> Buford, and Misses Austin  
 to tea.

Wednesday Apl. 18 Pleasant day. Attending Court

Quincy Thursday, Apl. 19. 1860 Cloudy, but pleasant day. At noon  
 Court adjourned till Court in Course. Orville O'Bannon called a  
 few minutes this A M At night Mrs B. Emma & self attended  
 Concert at City Hall given by Quincy Musical association

Friday Apl. 20 About 9 A. M. Mrs B and I rode out to place  
 in 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Whilst there Mr Boyd & Jno: James Key, of Can-  
 nelton came out to see us. They returned with us to Town, and  
 after taking some wine and cake I drove Key down to the River,  
 and left him on board Steamer Die Vernon on his way to St Louis

Saturday Apl 21 Fine rain last night—After breakfast drove  
 out 8<sup>th</sup> Street with Mrs Glenn to examine lots—Very fine day In  
 afternoon Mrs B and I rode out to place in 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and called  
 at Cox's

\*Quincy Sunday Apl. 22 1860 At Church A M & P. M. Mr Wisner of  
 Rushville preached in the morning—Mr Bartle in P. M. Pleasant  
 day.

Monday Apl. 23 Cool, cloudy day—Fire necessary—At work  
 in office

Tuesday Apl. 24 Quite cold this morning—almost a frost—  
 but bright, pretty day. At work in office. Beautiful Occultation  
 of Venus at 8 O'clock this evening—Clear, cool night.

Wednesday Apl. 25 Cool, but pleasant day—Frost in the  
 Country this morning At work in office

<sup>1</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, April 17, 1860, laid this to imported railroad votes.

Thursday Apl 26 Probably a little frost this morning but bright pretty day. Antone Konantz died at 4 P. M. At work in office

Quincy Friday Apl. 27, 1860 Heavy frost last night. Tomato vines cut down. Genl. Jas Dudley & wife & Rev Thos: P Dudley & wife here this morning on their way to Mo: Mr McChesney, the Geologist dined with me. At 2 P. M. I attended the funeral of Antone Konantz, one of our oldest German citizens who died yesterday Fine day. At work in office

\*Saturday Apl. 28 Fine day. At work in office. In afternoon Mrs B & I rode out to place in 8<sup>th</sup> Street—Called at Mr Allens on our return Miss Fougue with us to tea

Sunday Apl. 29 Very warm day. At Church A M & P. M. David & Flora Nelson with us to dinner At night rained a little and turned cool

\*Quincy Monday Apl 30 1860 Bright, but cool day. At work in office

Tuesday May 1, 1860 Very pretty day, but somewhat cool Was a little frost this morning At work in office Emma commenced French with Miss Fougeu to day

Wednesday May 2 Bright, warm day—At work in office

Thursday May 3 Warm & bright—Yellow, cinnamon & Scotch roses in bloom, also the locust trees—At work in office

Friday May 4. Still warm & dry—Water all gone from cisterns—At work in office

Saturday May 5 Very warm. At work in office. Stanleys & Allens with us to tea

Quincy Sunday May 6, 1860 Very warm day. At Church A. M. & P. M. and at Episcopal at Sunday School exhibition in the afternoon.

Monday May 7. Very warm & cloudy—threatning rain—Dr & Mrs Warren with us to dinner. At work in office

\*Tuesday May 8. Warm and cloudy. At work in office in forenoon. At 5½ P M started to Decatur to attend Republican State Convention in company with quite a number of other delegates—Cars crowded—Very windy day, threatning rain, but giving

none—turned quite cool towards night—Reached Decatur at 2 O'clock at night, and stopped at Macon House where Gilpin and I got a small, hard, bed together, and slept a little

\*Decatur

Wednesday, May 9 1860 Convention met about 11 O'clock A. M. Between 600 & 700 delegates in attendance. Every County in the State except one<sup>1</sup> represented. Jno: Palmer temporary chairman for organization—Jo: Gillespie permanent President. Contest for Governor<sup>2</sup> between Judd, Yates & Swett<sup>3</sup>—Dick Yates nominated after several ballotings—Hoffman, a German, nominated for Lieutenant Governor—Appointed Committees & adjourned till 9 A. M. tomorrow I dined at Dick Ogilby's,<sup>4</sup> and am at his house to night—All the gentlemen went out after tea but myself—I remained to prepare resolutions for tomorrow<sup>5</sup>—Has been pleasant day, but somewhat cool—Had heavy rain here yesterday

Decatur

Thursday May 10 1860 Cold morning, but pleasant day. Convention met at 9 A. M. Dubois nominated for Auditor, But-

<sup>1</sup>The only county not sending a regular delegate was Pulaski. This Decatur convention was a much more fully organized meeting than that which met at Bloomington in 1856.

<sup>2</sup>Concerning this contest for the governorship, Gustave Koerner wrote: "To my surprise Judd, candidate for the nomineeship for Governor, was defeated, probably by an intrigue of Mr. Swett, and Richard Yates was nominated." *Memoirs of Gustave Koerner*, 2: 83.

<sup>3</sup>Leonard Swett, 1825-1889. Born in Maine; came to Bloomington, Illinois, after serving in the Mexican War; active Republican from 1856; National Republican in 1872. A prominent Illinois lawyer and a close friend of Lincoln and Browning.

<sup>4</sup>Richard J. Oglesby, 1824-1899. Born in Kentucky; came to Decatur, Illinois, 1836; admitted to bar and began practice of law at Sullivan, 1845; served in Mexican War; went to California with the Forty-Niners, returning in 1851; served in the Civil War rising to the rank of major general; elected governor, 1864, 1872, 1884; United States senator, 1873-1879.

<sup>5</sup>In this convention, besides serving on the resolutions committee, Browning was named presidential elector, and was chosen one of the delegates-at-large to the national convention soon to meet at Chicago. In addition to naming Yates as governor and Francis H. Hoffman, a German-American, as lieutenant governor, the most important act of this convention was to instruct the delegation to the national convention to give its support to Lincoln for president. It appears that Lincoln was consulted in the selection of the delegates. Cole, *The Era of the Civil War (Centennial History of Illinois, 3)*, 190-191; Green B. Raum, *History of Illinois Republicanism*, 64.

ler for Treasurer—Hatch for Secy of State, and Bateman for Superintendent of Instruction.

At 2 P. M. I, as Chairman of the Committee of resolutions reported—all adopted without opposition, and convention adjourned. I was then loudly and persistently called upon for a speech, but had too much discretion to make one. I spoke about 10 minutes, and we then dispersed. I went to Ogilbys to tea, where I have been staying—then went to the depot and remained till after midnight, waiting for the train going West

Quincy Friday May 11. 1860 At 1½ A. M. took the cars on my way home and arrived at 9 to 10 A. M.—Bright, warm day.

Saturday May 12. Continues warm & dry

Sunday May 13. Heard last night that Dr Robertson & sister Ann were at Hannibal on their way to Ky, and at 10 A. M. Mrs B. Emma and I went down on Steamer Louisiana to see them. Stopped at the Hotel at the depot, where they, and their children & servants, and Ann OBannon all were. They came on the St Jo Road and will take the packet to St Louis tomorrow—the Missouri being so low they could not go down that. The day has been very warm

Quincy Monday May 14, 1860 Thundered & lightened last night, but did not rain—Quite cool this morning. Soon after breakfast took Steamer Hannibal for home where we arrived at 10 A. M. \*At 5½ P M took the cars for Chicago, to attend the National Republican Convention which is to assemble there on Wednesday. At Galesburg took a sleeping car, and had comfortable nights rest. \*A great many going up—long train of cars & all crowded

Chicago Tuesday May 15 Arrived in Chicago before breakfast this morning and stopped at Briggs House. Head quarters of our delegation at the Tremont House. We have had a busy day arranging the programme of proceedings. By request I went in company with Judge Davis and Tom Marshall to meet and confer with the Maine delegation; and at their solicitation made them a speech. Also called upon the delegation of New Hampshire—At night we received a message from the Massachusetts delega-



tion, and called upon them at their rooms. I addressed them also upon the aspect of political affairs in Illinois

Chicago Wednesday May 16 At 12 Meridian the Convention assembled at the wigwam near Lake Street bridge, and were called to order by Gov Morgan<sup>1</sup> of New York, who is Chairman of the National Central Committee David Willmot<sup>2</sup> of Pa: was appointed temporary Chairman He is a dull, chuckel headed, booby looking man, and makes a very poor presiding officer. After appointing Committees with a view to permanent organization adjourned till 5 P. M. at which time we again assembled, when Mr Ashman<sup>3</sup> was elected President of the Convention. I was designated by our delegation as Vice President for Illinois, but declined, and Judge Davis was appointed in my place. After appointing some additional Committees we adjourned till 10 O'clock tomorrow morning

\*Thursday May 17. Warm day—The convention was occupied all day on credentials, rules and resolutions. The platform was adopted late in the afternoon, when we adjourned to meet at 10 A M tomorrow when we will proceed to nominate candidates [*Leaf missing.*] \*My first choice for the Presidency was Mr Bates of Missouri, but under instructions our whole delegation voted for Mr Lincoln Many reasons influenced me to support Mr Bates, the chief of which, next to his eminent fitness, were to strengthen our organization in the South, and remove apprehension in the South of any hostile purpose on the part of Republicans to the institutions of the South—to restore fraternal regard among the different sections of the Union—to bring to our support the old whigs in the free states, who have not yet fraternized with us, and to give some check to the ultra tendencies of the Republican party. Mr Bates received 48 votes on the

<sup>1</sup>Edwin D. Morgan, 1811-1883. Chairman of the Republican National Committee, 1856-1864; governor of New York, 1859-1862; major general of volunteers; United States senator, 1863-1869.

<sup>2</sup>David Wilmot, 1814-1868. Representative from Pennsylvania, 29th, 30th, 31st congresses; United States senator, 1861-1863; author of the Wilmot Proviso.

<sup>3</sup>George Ashmun, 1804-1870, of Springfield, Massachusetts, member of Congress from 1845 to 1851.

first ballot, and would probably have been nominated if the struggle had been prolonged<sup>1</sup>

Chicago

Saturday May 19, 1860 At 9 A. M. left Chicago on my way home, and arrived at midnight, having been delayed several hours on the way. Gov Selden<sup>2</sup> of New York, who was one of the delegates to the Convention, came down the road as far as Batavia. He introduced himself to me, and thanked me, on behalf of the New York delegation, for my speech of yesterday.

I had a good deal of conversation with him upon political subjects. He thinks with great effort New York may be carried for Mr Lincoln, but does not regard it as certain. The delegation of that state was greatly devoted to Mr Seward, and are mortified and disappointed.

\*Quincy

Sunday May 20, 1860 Very warm day. At Church in the morning, but not out again. Thunder, lightning and a little rain at night.

Monday May 21 Very warm day. At work in office Dined with Gov Morgan of N Y at Q House

Tuesday May 22 Fine day—At work in office. Mrs B and I out at Cox's to tea. "Help me Cassius or I sink" This P. M. I received a long letter from Hon David Davis, Tho<sup>s</sup> A Marshall,

<sup>1</sup>Browning's entries in his diary give a disappointing account of the work of the convention which nominated Lincoln, and of Browning's own work therein. Though he privately favored Bates, his influence for Lincoln, exerted according to instructions, seems to have been a factor of importance. Gustave Koerner, one of the Illinois delegates, has left an interesting account of the way in which the Illinois men worked to obtain support for Lincoln from the delegations of other states. The Bates forces were working hard to win over the Indiana and Pennsylvania delegations which were holding a meeting at the court house. Koerner states that he and Browning were "despatched to counteract the movement." Koerner urged Lincoln as a candidate far more likely to win the support of German Republicans than Bates. Browning, he said, spoke from the Whig standpoint, showing that Lincoln ought to satisfy the Whigs of Indiana and Pennsylvania, while his opposition to nativism ought to win for him the foreign vote. Koerner adds: "He [Browning] wound up with a most beautiful and eloquent eulogy on Lincoln, which electrified the meeting." After this the delegates held a secret session and it was later learned that Indiana would go for Lincoln at the start, while the Pennsylvanians would support him as a second choice. *Memoirs of Gustave Koerner*, 2: 87-89.

<sup>2</sup>Henry R. Selden, 1805-1885. Lieutenant governor of New York from 1856 to 1858.

N. B. Judd, E Peck<sup>1</sup> & O. M. Hatch, entreating me in the most earnest terms to go, without delay, to St Louis, and see Judge Bates, and try and prevail upon him to come into Illinois, and assist us in the campaign. They want his influence to carry the old whig element for Lincoln.<sup>2</sup> Some of these same men had blamed me for supporting Judge Bates for the Presidency and had asserted, in the most emphatic terms, that he could not carry Illinois. I believed before the convention, and believe now, that he would have carried the entire Republican party, and the old whig party

Quincy

<sup>1</sup>Ebenezer Peck, 1805-1881. Born in Maine; admitted to bar in Canada; member of Canadian Parliament; came to Chicago, 1835, being one of the founders of the Democratic party and one of its supposedly unscrupulous politicians. Lincoln opposed him then, but by 1856 Peck had become a Republican and he took part in the Republican convention at Bloomington in that year. He was elected clerk of the Supreme Court in 1841 in a meeting of five of the nine justices of the court. His election was supposed to be part of a bargain regarding the passage of the act of 1841 reorganizing the Supreme Court on Democratic lines. He was therefore known as the "midnight clerk." President Lincoln appointed him to the United States Court of Claims. Palmer, *The Bench and Bar of Illinois*, 1: 76-77; 2: 627; Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln*, 1: 126-127; 2: 28; *Memoirs of Gustave Koerner*, 2: 93.

<sup>2</sup>This letter is in the files of the Illinois State Historical Library at Springfield and reads as follows:

Springfield, Ills  
May 21 1860

Dear Browning—

There must be no mistake about carrying Illinois—

Our honor is pledged to it— To conduce to this end, it is apparent to a number of friends now here, that Judge Edward Bates should be got to make speeches, at 4 or 5 prominent places in this State, say Charleston Springfield, Jacksonville, Carlinville, or Alton, & some place on Military Tract

Judge Bates owes it to himself & the cause to make this sacrifice His appearance & the man himself would be more effective, than a thousand speeches from Eastern Orators—

—Mr Bates, would emphatically settle the Fillmore element for us— Your friends think that if these speeches could be made all of them— before the Baltimore nomination—that they would be greatly—ininitely more effective—than if made afterwards

Now is the appointed time— In looking over the list of our friends, who should be sent to Mr Bates to effect this end a number of your friends & Mr Lincoln's now here, unitedly believe that you are that man—

The undersigned therefore, earnestly & affectionately urge you immediately to visit Saint Louis & if possible secure the services of Mr Bates— We assure you that you could not more effectually serve the cause—

We beg of you to lay aside business & visit Saint Louis—for this purpose—

Write to Mr Hatch the result of your mission—Knowing your inter-

beside, and I think others are beginning to suspect the same thing, and that we have made a mistake in the selection of candidates.

I immediately wrote a long and urgent letter to Judge Bates, and will follow it in person tomorrow—for in my opinion, the existence of the party and the highest good of the country, are alike dependent upon our success, and I am willing to forego all personal preferences, and make any reasonable sacrifice to secure a triumph

Quincy &  
St Louis

Wednesday, May 23. 1860 At 11 O'clock A. M. took passage on Steamer Hannibal City for St Louis, on a political mission to Judge Bates

St. Louis

Thursday May 24 Reached St Louis at 6 A. M. went to Planters House and had short interview with Gov Morgan of New York. Also met Judge Bates & Mr Gibson there, and made an appointment with the Judge to meet him at his office at 11 O'clock. I then had a long talk with Gibson in the parlor of the Planters House, and at 11 he and I met at Judge Bates' office. The Judge had just recvd<sup>d</sup> and read my letter of Tuesday—I exhibited to him the letter I had received from Springfield, and made an urgent appeal to him to come into Illinois, and make a few speeches. Whilst I was engaged in urging such considerations as I thought would be most effectual in prevailing with him, Mr Goodrich,<sup>1</sup> one of the Massachusetts delegates to the Chicago Convention, came in and united with me in the appeal I was making. But our efforts were unavailing. Judge Bates very

est in this cause, we feel certain that you will not hesitate a moment, in endeavouring to accomplish this very desirable object.

Mr Blair of St Louis thinks it most important & if in St Louis will lend his aid— Mr Blair has the matter at heart—

We remain

Dear Sir

Your friends—

David Davis

N. B. Judd

T. A. Marshall

Eb Peck.

O. M. Hatch

<sup>1</sup>Probably John Z. Goodrich, born 1801. Elector on Harrison ticket, 1840; representative in 32d and 33d congresses; collector of customs at Boston, 1861-1865.



St Louis

emphatically declined to take the stump, saying that such a thing as one who had been before the convention as a candidate for nomination for the presidency taking the stump was unprecedented—that he thought it would be in very bad taste, and incompatible with the dignity of his character & position, and that he must respectfully decline to do so—that his situation was peculiar—that he had been thought of as a candidate for the Presidency not because he was a member of the Republican party,

identif

but because he was a man outside of the Republican party harmonizing with it in political sentiments, and because it was sup-

Republican

posed, therefore, that he could bring outside strength to the support of the party—that the platform, in the main expressed his sentiments, but there were some things in it unnecessary and untrue, which did not meet his approval, and mentioned particularly the clauses relating to the power of Congress over slavery in the territories, and the naturalization laws—that he felt no emotion of chagrin, or regret at not getting the nomination—that he entertained the highest regard for Mr Lincoln, appreciated and admired his character, and should rejoice at his success over any democrat who could be nominated, but that he must take a little time to deliberate as to the course proper to be

St Louis

when

pursued by him, and that he had reflected and matured his opinions he would write me fully upon the subject. I met Sam Glover and had a short conversation with him.<sup>1</sup> He thought Judge Bates ought to write me a letter for publication endorsing

<sup>1</sup>Among the Browning letters in the Illinois Historical Library at Springfield is one from Sam T. Glover to Browning, dated St. Louis, June 13, 1860. This letter deals with the attitude of Mr. Bates. After stating that he (Mr. Glover) had recently identified himself with the Republican party, and felt considerable concern as to Bates's course, he writes of a call which he made upon Mr. Bates in order to elicit some statement as to his position. The letter continues:

"He then took out of his desk and read to me a most happy well considered eloquent letter . . . defining his own position as not a republican but as a whig & one who is from principle obliged to vote with that party as the *conservative* party of the country. He shows up the negro democracy in their native colors—He turns the other end of the Telescope on Bell & Everet and shows how small they really are He does justice to



Lincoln's nomination, but he would not advise him, as he was a man of great intellect who thought, and acted for himself, and he had never known him make a mistake especially in a matter of taste and propriety

At 11 A. M. called on Mrs Bennett She was not in. At 2 P. M. called and spent an hour with Mrs Greenleaf. At 3 came on board Die Vernon on my way home Very hot day.

Quincy Friday May 25. 1860 Arrived at home about 2 P. M. Very hot day. At Dr Warrens to tea with some other company. All vegetation is perishing for want of rain. Have had very little since last fall, and none at all since a light shower in April.

Saturday May 26. Continues very warm and dry. At work in office. \*Just at night had a pleasant little shower—about enough to lay the dust. Mrs Pearson of California & Mrs De-Kraft to tea with us.

Sunday May 27. Very pleasant day. Took some medicine last night, and not out to Church this morning, but went in the P. M.

\*Getting ready to go to Carthage tomorrow to attend Court

Carth- Monday May 28. 1860 At 5 O'clock this morning took the ge cars for Plymouth on my way to Hancock Court. At Plymouth Wheat, Grimshaw, myself and some others took the stage and arrived at Carthage between 11. & 12 O'clock—Stopped at Artois Hamiltons and attended Court in afternoon—Sprinkled a little this P. M. and very warm

\*Tuesday May 29 Attending Court. Cool this morning—Cloudy and very windy day, and by night quite cool enough to make fire comfortable

Lincoln & Hamlin & spurns the idea that any little feeling of personal pique can influence his conduct.

"The letter is truly a *great one*. It is as solid as iron and brilliant as jasper. I urged him to publish it immediately He did not give me a satisfactory answer . . .

"Can you come here If not can you not write to Mr B a strong letter urging him not to postpone longer his promise to send the letter"

The letter referred to was addressed to Browning and was published in the *St. Louis Democrat* of June 19, 1860, and widely copied. See entry for June 19, 1860, *post*, 416-417 n. 3,

\*Wednesday May 30. Cold, cloudy day, looking and feeling very much as if it was going to snow—Fire in my room at night  
Attending Court

\*Carth-  
age

Thursday May 31, 1860 Cloudy, cold day, but cleared off, and became more pleasant in the afternoon

There was a large Republican ratification meeting held here to day, which was addressed by Mr Grimshaw and myself in the afternoon, he speaking a half hour, and I an hour and a half. The Court house was packed to its utmost capacity, and then not half the crowd was in. There were a large number of ladies present.

There seems to be a great deal of enthusiasm among the people, and every thing now indicates an ardent and successful campaign.

Carth-  
age

Friday June 1. 1860 Pleasant day—Attending Court in the forenoon. At 2 P. M. Mr Warren, Mr Wheat & myself left Carthage, and came in Hamiltons carriage to Colmer, where they took the cars home, and I came to Macomb to address a political meeting tomorrow.

I am at the Randolph House. At near ten O'clock at night the people assembled round the house, and shouted for me till I had to go down, and show myself and shake hands & talk a little.

Macomb

Saturday June 2 Early this morning the people began to gather in, and by noon from seven to ten thousand assembled. The morning was quite warm with a fresh breeze from the South, and the arrangements for speaking were made in the public square. Lawrence was to commence at 2 P. M. and I was to follow him. At 1 P. M. the wind shifted to the North, and blew almost a hurricane for half an hour, and then rained very heavily for sometime. Between 2 & 3 P. M. when it had almost ceased to rain although the earth was drenched, and the grass dripping, a great crowd of men and women assembled in the square, and I was compelled to address them, which I proceeded to do with my hat on, and an umbrella held over. After speaking an hour, being then thoroughly wet, and the rain increasing, it was proposed to adjourn to a large unfinished brick house,

Macomb which we did, and where I addressed them for an hour longer—tho' not one fourth of them could get in.

At 7 O'clock I took the cars for home where I arrived at 10, and found that rain had extended to Adams County in copious & abundant supply. It was the best and heaviest rain we have had this year. Lawrence and I dined with Mr Twyman, the son in law of Mr Cha<sup>s</sup> Chandler

Sunday June 3. Very fine day. At Church A. M. & P. M. Just before night Mr & Mrs Goodrich, of Mass: Mr Goodrich being a member of the National Republican Committee called, and sat till near 10 O'clock. The moon is about full, and is as lovely a summer night as ever shone.

Quincy & Carthage Monday June 4, 1860 At 5 O'clock this morning took the cars for Plymouth on my way back to Hancock Court. Warren & Grimshaw in company and at Plymouth we were joined by Mr Sherman of Galesburg and we all came on together to Carthage with Hamiltons team and carriage, which Grimshaw had driven to Plymouth on Saturday—Got here a little after 10 O'clock and stopped at Artois Hamiltons—A very fine day.

Tuesday June 5 Fine day. Attending Court. Wrote to Hon Edw: Bates in reply to his of 28<sup>th</sup> ult:

Wednesday June 6 Thunder & lightning last night, and a little cool this morning. Attending Court

Carthage & Quincy Thursday June 7, 1860 Cool, pleasant day. At 3. P M Court adjourned till Court in Course. Grimshaw, Jason Sherman & myself got Jno Hamilton to bring us, and Miss Mary Boude, who was going home with me, to Colmer, where we took supper, and at 7½ took the cars for Quincy where we arrived at 9½ at night. Miss Boude went home with me.

Friday June 8. Very pleasant day. At work in office. At 10½ A M. Mrs B & I rode to our place in 8<sup>th</sup> Street and called at Mr Cox's

\*Saturday June 9 Cool, pleasant day. At work in office. A little party at our house at night. Had to tea Bushnells, Bulls, Cox's, McFadons & Mrs Baldwin of Keokuk—& Mrs Hunter & Miss Benedict of Philadelphia

Quincy Sunday June 10. 1860 Pleasant day. At church A. M. and P. M.

\*Monday June 11 Fine day. At 5½ P. M. took the cars for Springfield to attend U S Circuit Court. Reached Springfield at midnight and stopped at the American. Many democrats were in Company coming over to attend the meeting of the democratic State Convention on Wednesday. Quite cloudy & thundering and lightning when we arrived at Springfield, and some rain before day. The Circuit Court commenced in Quincy to day but I could not remain, being compelled to come here

Spring- Tuesday, June 12, 1860 Fine day. After breakfast called field to see Hon Abm Lincoln, at his room in the State House—He was very glad to see me, and received me with great cordiality. I found Mr Hicks,<sup>1</sup> an artist of New York, painting a portrait to be lithographed in Boston, and at the request of himself and Mr Lincoln, I remained and talked to Lincoln whilst Mr Hicks worked upon the picture. In the afternoon I called and did the same thing, and promised to call again tomorrow, as Mr Hicks says he greatly prefers to have some friend present whilst he is at work. The picture promises to be a very fine one.

Spring- Lincoln bears his honors meekly As soon as other company field had retired after I went in he fell into his old habit of telling amusing stories, and we had a free and easy talk of an hour or two.

Called at Dr Browns after tea

\*Wednesday June 13 Democratic State Convention in session here to day, and the Court did but little business Spent a portion of the day with Lincoln talking to him whilst Mr Hicks worked upon his portrait He completed it this P. M. In my judgment it is an exact, life like likeness, and a beautiful work of art. It is deeply imbued with the intellectual and spiritual, and I doubt whether any one ever succeeds in getting a better picture of the man.

<sup>1</sup>Lincoln's published works include a memorandum concerning his birthplace which was given to the "Artist Hicks" on June 14, 1860. Nicolay and Hay, *Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln* (Gettysburg edition), 6:40.

Spring-  
field

Thursday, June 14, 1860 Rained last night and this forenoon. Attending Court. Spent the evening at Lincoln—

Friday June 15 Fine, warm summer day—Attending Court. Took tea at Dubois with Lincoln

Saturday June 16 Warm day. Attending Court. After tea called at Mr Strother Browning's to see Miss Ella Browning<sup>1</sup> of Lagrange, who arrived here this morning in company with a Mr Ratcliffe

Sunday June 17. Very warm day. Attended Dr Brown's Church in the morning \*After tea called at Mr Ridgelys, and went to Mr Jennings Church at night

\*Spring-  
field

Monday June 18, 1860 Have spent a good part of the day writing letters—In afternoon went with Mr Ratcliffe of Mo: Miss Ella Browning of Mo: and Miss Nanny Browning<sup>2</sup> of Springfield to call on Mr Lincoln

\*Tuesday June 19 Very warm summer day—Breakfasted at Dr Browns with Mrs Brown alone, he being in the Country The letter of Hon Edw Bates to me declaring his intention to support Mr Lincoln for the Presidency appeared in St Louis Democrat to day. Our friends are delighted with it. It is a great letter—the production of a great man and noble patriot, and will be of immense value to us in the campaign. It is all that I could possibly desire.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Strother Browning and Miss Ella Browning were not near relatives.

<sup>2</sup>Nanny Browning was probably not a near relative.

<sup>3</sup>The salient passages in Bates's letter, above referred to, were as follows:

St. Louis, June 11, 1860.

O. H. Browning, Esq., Quincy, Ill.

. . . It ought not to have been doubted that I could give Mr. Lincoln's nomination a cordial and hearty support. . . .

There was no good ground for supposing that I felt any pique or dissatisfaction because the Chicago convention failed to nominate me. . . . On party grounds I had no right to expect a nomination; I had no claims upon the Republicans as a party for I have never been a member of any party . . . except only the Whig party. . . . Many Republicans honored me with their confidence and desired to make me their candidate. For this favor I was indebted to the fact that between them and me there was a coincidence of opinion upon certain important questions of government. They and I agreed in believing that the national government has sovereign power over the territories, and that it would be impolitic and



Quincy

Wednesday June 20, 1860 Took tea last evening at Mr Strother Browning's in Springfield At 6 O'clock this morning took the cars for home, and arrived at 9½—Raining quite heavily when I got home.

Found Mr Wise of Maine, and his son of Boston at my house—Have been staying here some days attending Unitarian Convention. I did not go down town to day.

Thursday June 21. Fine summer day. At work in office. Our friends the Messrs Wises left us to day. Milton Kimball Esqr of Lewiston with us to tea

\*Friday June 22 Fine summer day. At work in office, After tea rode with Mrs Browning to 8<sup>th</sup> Street

\*Quincy

Saturday June 23, 1860 Fine day. At work in office. Mrs Gilpin with us to dinner

unwise to use that power for the propagation of negro slavery by planting it in free territory. Some of them believed also that my nomination, while it would tend to soften the tone of the Republican party, without any abandonment of its principles, might tend also to generalize its character and attract the friendship and support of many, especially in the border States, who, like me, had never been members of party, but concurred with them in opinion about the government of the territories. These are . . . I think, the only grounds upon which I was supported at all at Chicago.

Mr. Lincoln's nomination took the public by surprise because, until just before the event, it was unexpected. But really it ought not to have excited any surprise, for such unforeseen nominations are common in our political history. . . . As an individual he earned a high reputation for truth, courage, candor, morals, and amiability so that, as a man, he is most trustworthy, and in this particular he is more entitled to our esteem than some other men, his equals, who had far better opportunities and aids in early life.

I consider Mr. Lincoln a sound, safe, national man. He could not be sectional if he tried. His birth, his education, the habits of his life, and his geographical position compelled him to be national. All his feelings and interests are identified with the great valley of the Mississippi, near whose center he has spent his whole life. That valley is not a section.

I give my opinion freely in favor of Mr. Lincoln, and I hope that, for the good of the whole country, he may be elected, but it is not my intention to take active part in the canvass. For many years past, I have had little to do with public affairs, and have acquired no political office; and now, in view of the mad excitement which convulses the country, and the general disruption and disorder of parties, . . . I am more than ever assured that for me, personally, there is no political future, and I accept the condition with cheerful satisfaction.

Edward Bates

Sunday June 24 At Church A M & P. M. Warm day.

Monday June 25 Warm day. At work in office

Tuesday June 26. Warm day. Dr Robertson arrived this morning, and we all went to Asburys to tea.

Wednesday June 27 The warmest day of the season. After breakfast rode out eighth street with Dr Robertson. At 10 A. M. he took the cars on St. Jo: road on his way home.

Thursday June 28 Rained a little this morning—Warm, cloudy day—At work in office. Attended Snobs Floral Concert at night

Quincy Friday, June 29 1860 Fine rain this morning, and warm day. At work in office After tea rode with Mrs Gilpin to 8<sup>th</sup> street

Saturday June 30 Hottest day of the season. Emma gone to Hannibal with a pick nick party on the Steamer Pike. Thunder storm and rain at night

Quincy Sunday July 1, 1860 Raining briskly this morning & continued at intervals till about 11 A. M. Attended Church A M & P. M. Very warm day.

Monday July 2. Very warm day. Sun shining with great power. \*Preparing to start to Chicago tomorrow—

Tuesday July 3. At 5 this morning took the cars for Galesburg, where I arrived at 10 A. M. and went directly to the College to attend the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Knox College. Were in session all day, and quite harmonious. I dined and took tea at Mr Gales. Had meeting of the Board after tea, and I left them in session at near 10 O'clock at night, and took the cars for Chicago

\*Chicago Wednesday July 4, 1860 Went to bed at Galesburg last night, and got here this morning after a comfortable nights rest. Warm day, but pleasant breeze. Court not in session, and I have passed the most of the day in my room. Am at Briggs house No 203

Thursday July 5. Warm day. Attending Court. About 5 P. M. came up a thunder cloud—rained a little & turned cool.

Friday July 6 Attending Court.

Saturday July 7 Attending Court

\*Sunday July 8 Very pleasant day. Attended South Presbyterian Church morning & evening. Mr Cunningham, the pastor, preached in the morning—a seceder at night

\*Chicago Monday July 9, 1860 Very pleasant day. Attending Court and trying cases

Tuesday July 10 Cold—winter clothing necessary. Commenced to day the trial of the Eject: suit Kingsbury vs Fon du Lac or N Western R R Co: I am with Judge Scates<sup>1</sup> and Mr Coventry for Defendant. Merrick & Kales for Pltf—

Wednesday July 11. Continues cold. Progressing with the trial we commenced yesterday.

Thursday July 12 Closed the evidence in the Kingsbury case, and adjourned the argument till tomorrow. In the afternoon Merrick for Plaintiff and I for Deft: took the deposition of Capt Johnson, he being too unwell to come into Court. Taken for Plaintiff

\*Chicago Friday July 13, 1860 The Kingsbury case was argued to day by Mr Kales for Pltf, and by Judge Scates & myself for Deft. We were limited to an hour and a half each, but Judge Scates gave me 10 minutes of his time, so I had an hour & 40 minutes. I closed a little after 3 p. m. and Dick Merrick who is to conclude for the Pltf said he was sick, and begged the Court to give him till tomorrow, which was done.

Has been a beautiful day

\*Saturday July 14 Merrick made his concluding argument this morning; the Judge charged the Jury and about 1 o'clock gave them the case. They had not agreed when Court adjourned at 4. Are to return sealed verdict Fine day

\*Chicago Sunday July 15, 1860 Fine, clear, warm summer day. Attended Mr Cunningham's Church A. M. & P. M.

<sup>1</sup>Walter B. Scates, 1808-1886. Born in Virginia; came to Illinois, 1831, residing first at Frankfort, then at Vandalia, 1836; justice of the Supreme Court, 1841-1847, 1854-1857; served in the Civil War; appointed collector of customs at Chicago, July, 1866, and removed by Grant, 1869.

Monday July 16 Attending Court. In the case we were trying last week, in which the jury went out on Saturday a verdict was returned for Defendant.

Warm day

\*Tuesday July 17 Warm day—Attending Court and trying cases.

Wednesday July 18 Rained this morning early. Very warm. Attending Court

Thursday July 19. Delightful day. Attending Court

Friday July 19 20 Very warm day—Quite heavy rain in forenoon, and again at night—Attending Court

Chicago

Saturday July 21 1860 Warm day—Attending Court.

x x x x x

Sunday July 22. Heavy rain last night, & this morning—Very cold winter Clothing necessary. Was not at Church this morning. Lay down after I had dressed myself and went to sleep and did not wake up till 11 O'clock. At night went with Mrs Hedges to Mr Cunningham's Church—Some stranger preached a good sermon x x x x x

Monday July 23 Fine day—Attending Court. Jury discharged to day.

Tuesday July 24 Very cold this morning. Said to have been frost—but pleasant day. Got through in Court—\*At 9 O'clock at night took the cars for home.

x x x x x

Quincy

Wednesday July 25 1860 Went to bed last night immediately after leaving Chicago and got up at Galesburg at 5 this morning. Rained considerably through the night, but found it had not extended much this side of Galesburg. Breakfasted at Galesburg and reached home at 9½ A. M. Exceedingly dry here and very warm. Mrs Kennedy of St. Louis, and her two children at my house.

and

Thursday July 26. Warm day—At home.

Wednesday

Friday July 27 Very warm—At home. After tea took a ride with Mrs Kennedy

Saturday July 28—Very hot, but fine breeze—Had delightful rain at night

Quincy Sunday July 29. 1860 Enchanting day. Attended Church A. M. & evening.

Monday July 30 Fine day—At work in office

Tuesday July 31 Fine day. At work in office After tea took a ride with Mrs Kennedy & called at Asbury's

Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Browning, Emma and myself went to concert of Madam Anna Bishop at Concert Hall. She possesses great power of voice and sings ballads sweetly.

Quincy Wednesday Augt 1, 1860 Rain in forenoon & again in afternoon. Bushnell and Misses Bushnell left to day for the East

Thursday Augt 2 Asbury's, McFaddons, Warrens & with us to breakfast. A very warm day. At work in office At night Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Browning & myself attended a party at Dr Stanleys. Very warm night indeed

Friday Augt 3. Hottest day of the season At work in office

Saturday Augt 4 Very fine rain in the night, and before day this morning. Warm, cloudy day. At work in office. Rode to place in 8 Street with Mrs B after tea

Quincy Sunday Augt 5 1860 Very warm day. At Church A M & P. M.—Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Webster preached both times

Monday Augt 6. Mrs Kennedy, her children and servant, who have been with us for more than two weeks, left on the St Louis packet this A. M. One of the warmest days of the season

Tuesday Augt 7. Fine rain last night and warm to day. \*At 5½ P M took the cars for Springfield in company with 50 or 60 others to attend a mass meeting—Company was augmented at all the places and was very large when we reached Springfield at 2 O'clock in the morning Taverns all full, but I got a room & bed at the American & took Dummer in with me

ring- d Wednesday Augt 8, 1860 Very warm day. The meeting is the most immense I have ever seen. There cannot have been less than 50000 persons. About noon 25000 or 30000 had assembled in the fair grounds, where speeches were delivered from



Spring-  
field

4 or 5 stands. At the principle stand the crowd was addressed by Senator Doolittle of Wisconsin<sup>1</sup> for 1½ hours—then by Jno: Wilson of Chicago who read a speech, and then by myself. I spoke for two hours to a large and most attentive audience, apparently to their acceptance. I was never more complimented upon an effort. My friends were in exstacies and said I made a great speech. I am urged by persons from every part of the State to visit their Counties & address them. After the conclusion of my speech, the crowd dispersed and returned to Town. At night there was a fine display of fire works, and a torch light procession said to be 8 miles long, and speaking at the wigwam which was packed full. Trumbull and Koerner spoke—I took tea and staid all night at Dr Browns.

Thursday Augt 9 Breakfasted, dined & took tea at Dr Browns—In forenoon called at Lincolns and spent an hour, with him, Mrs Lincoln & Mrs Judd—A great many people still in Town—Republican central committee in session, and wish me to give them the disposal of my time for 30 days which I cannot do. A delicious day—Cooler than it has been

\*Quincy

Friday Augt 10, 1860 At 3 O'clock this morning left the American House, and took the cars for home. Quite cold morning. Miss Fanny Austin and Miss Ella Browning with me. Ella stopped at my house where we arrived at 10 A. M.

Saturday Augt 11 Almost cold enough for frost this morning, but delightful day—Trumbull spoke here to day at 2 P. M.

Drum

in Concert Hall to a good audience Gov Wood, Judge Trumbull & A Williams Esqr took tea with us.

Sunday Augt 12 Cool, pleasant day—Attended Church A. M. & evening Miss Ella Browning left on the packet this P. M. for her home in La Grange

Quincy

Monday Augt 13, 1860 Cool, delightful day. At work in office.

Met Col Richardson to day in front of Quincy House—He asked me if I intended to permit Trumbull to be reelected to the

<sup>1</sup>James R. Doolittle, 1815-1897. Democratic senator from Wisconsin, 1857-1869.

Senate in the event that we carried the Legislature. I replied I supposed so, as I believed no one else was seeking the place, and the Republican members elected would probably be pledged to his support. He said I would be foolish to submit to it—that Trumbull had no hold upon the people—no popularity with them, and that it would be easy for me to beat him, by getting four or five Republican friends in the Legislature to refuse to go into caucus—to adhere to me, and that he would bring the democrats to my support, and secure my election—and added that in the event that the democrats carried the Legislature he hoped I would form no combinations against him. I assured him I would not, and would not permit any if I could prevent it, but that as to beating Trumbull, I did not wish to do anything, at present, that would be productive of discord in our party. He answered there was no necessity of doing anything now. It would be time enough after the election was over to move in the matter, and that in the mean time what had occurred between us should not be spoken of. The foregoing is substantially the conversation we had.

After tea Mrs B & I rode to our place in 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and then called at Grimshaws

Quincy &  
Hannibal

Tuesday, Augt 14, 1860 Cloudy, cold day—Have fire in my office. This morning a committee of Republicans from Hannibal called on me to go down and address them there to night At 2½ P. M. I started in a two horse buggy with A Williams Jr—We reached there at 6½ and stopped at Planters House. At 8 repaired to the Hall where about 200 Republicans & three or 400 others were assembled—Mr Terree, who was present, made the first speech of about an hour. I then took the stand, and amid continual interruption and indignity from the Douglass democrats who were present, spoke for an hour and a half. They struggled hard to incite a mob, and break up the meeting, but failed. The Hon Jno: B Henderson,<sup>1</sup> defeated Douglass candidate for Congress, was present, and I think countenanced and encouraged

Quincy

<sup>1</sup>John B. Henderson, born 1826 in Virginia. Presidential elector, 1856; presidential elector on Douglas ticket, 1860; Union Convention, 1861; United States senator, 1862-1869.

the ruffianism of his party. At all events he did nothing to restrain it. When I was through his friends called loudly for him, and the Republicans cheerfully consented that he should speak, and listened to him, respectfully for an hour and a half. His talk, for it could not be called a speech, was abundantly garnished with oaths, and was excessively coarse, vulgar and foolish, but seemed admirably adapted to the taste of a part of his hearers—

Quincy He tried to talk so long as to preclude a reply but I was determined to make some response to him, and quietly waited till he was done and again took the stand. He remained to hear me but a few minutes, and then fled, and his rabble again tried to break up the meeting by shouting fire, and other disorderly and blackguard conduct, but failed. I replied to Mr Henderson to the satisfaction of my friends, and at 12 O'clock at night adjourned. The Republicans were fully satisfied with the result. There had been free talk among the Douglassites of mobbing me, but the attempt was not made. They were afraid to attempt the execution of their threats, and contented themselves with a display of cowardly blackguardism

Quincy

Wednesday Augt 15 1860 At 8½ A. M. left Hannibal, and reached home at 12½. Yesterday as we went down it was so cold I had to wear my overcoat. To day, returning, it was quite warm & dusty.

Thursday Augt 16 Warm day. At work in office

\*Friday Augt 17 Heavy thunder storm & rain last night. Warm day. At work in office—Ralstons, Richardsons & others at our house to tea

Saturday Augt 18 Warm day. At work in office. After tea rode out to 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

\*Sunday Augt 19 At Church A. M. & P. M.—Rev Mr Baker preached in forenoon, & Dr Warren in the evening. A very hot day.

Quincy

Monday, Augt 20, 1860 Warm, cloudy morning—Commenced raining pretty heavily between 10 & 11 A M, & continued with thunder & lightning at intervals till the afternoon. At work in the office—

Tuesday Augt 21. Bright, warm day. At work in office.

Wednesday Augt 22 Very warm day. At work in office.  
Charley Buford went home to day on a visit

Thursday Augt 23 Very warm day. At work in office

Friday Augt 24 Temperature changed in the night, and quite cool to day, though bright At work in office.

\*Quincy Saturday Augt 25, 1860 Lovely day. At 6 A. M. started in carriage with A. Williams Sr & Jr, & A Jonas, to Stones prairie to Republican meeting. About 10000 persons present in a grove—Dined from baskets, on the ground, and at 1 P. M. the speaking was commenced by Jonas who occupied an hour. I followed for two hours—Grimshaw spoke about 20 minutes, and then broke up.

Douglass democrats, who were drunk and disorderly tried to break up the meeting—Several fights occurred, but did materially interrupt the speaking—Wide awakes protected us.<sup>1</sup> Got home about 9 O'clock at night

Quincy Sunday Augt 26, 1860 Fine day. Dr Warren not being at home I attended Mr Kings Church in the morning, and the Vermont St Methodist Church at night

Monday Augt 27. Warm day—At work in office. After tea Mrs B & I rode out to place in 8<sup>th</sup> St, and on return called at Esqr Moores & Mr Denmans.

Tuesday. Augt 28 Thunder storm & rain last night—Very warm this morning At night Jansen and I addressed a large political meeting at corner of 5<sup>th</sup> & Washington Streets in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward. Beautiful moonlight night.

Wednesday Augt 29<sup>th</sup> Very warm day. At work in office  
8

Quincy Thursday, Augt 30. 1860 Very warm. At work in office

Friday Augt 31 Much cooler than it was. A lovely day.  
At work in office Emma went to Capt Sternes to day.

<sup>1</sup>At the Stones Prairie meeting the Wide Awakes repelled an assault by rowdies who fired shots through the Republican banner. *Quincy Whig*, August 27, 1860.

Saturday Sept 1. Very fine day. Went with Archy Williams Jr & my boy Johnny to mass Republican meeting at Mendon. Twas a great success—About 14000 people. They assembled in a grove S W of Town, where Grimshaw spoke for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour—I for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours, and Ben Prentiss about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour—Got home at 9 P. M.

Sunday Sept 2. Rained last night—Pleasant, cool day—At Church A M & P. M.

Quincy

Monday Sept 3, 1860 Rather warm day—Rained briskly between 1 & 2 P. M. At work in office

Tuesday Sept 4. At work in office—Very warm day. Emma returned from the Country to day. Marcellus Duncan and Miss Sue Riddle came home with her, and dined with us

Mrs Ford & others to tea. Miss Deane & Miss Asbury staid all night, as heavy rain came on just after night

Wednesday Sept 5. Raining this morning, and did not cease till noon. Very warm At work in office

Thursday Sept 6 Warm, bright day. At work in office

Quincy  
† & Jack-  
sonville

Friday Sept 7, 1860 One of the hottest days of the season. Mr Bushnell & Nellie reached home this morning. \*At 5 P. M. Emma and I took the cars for Jacksonville & reached there at 11. Judge Brown met us at the depot, and we went to his house

Saturday Sept 8. A very warm morning, but the wind shifted and by noon had become quite cool. Rode out to fair grounds with Judge Brown in the forenoon. Very large Republican meeting here to day. Lovejoy spoke in the afternoon and I at night.

Hatch & Butler called to see me this morning to get me to go with them to Springfield to investigate some matters connected with Mattisons frauds

Jackson-  
ville &  
Spring-  
field

Sunday Sept 9 1860 Cool day—fire necessary—At old school in forenoon. At 10 at night took the cars for Springfield. Reached there at 1 O'clock and stopped at the American House.

Monday Sept 10 Spent most of the day in the Treasurers office examining in regard to fraudulent funding of state indebtedness by Gov Mattison, and arranging some political



appointments with Lincoln, Hatch & Dubois. At 5 P. M. took the cars for Jacksonville and got back to Judge Brown's there at 9. Dr Finley & wife at Judge Brown's. They have a son in the lunatic Asylum here who is very ill and supposed to be dying

Jackson-  
ville

Tuesday Sept 11. 1860 Bright, pleasant day. Dr Finleys son died to day. Attending fair—Very fine show of stock, and people. Dined on the fair ground, and took tea at Elish: Brown's.

\*Wednesday Sept 12 Went with Emma to the fair grounds after breakfast, and remained there till 2 P. M. dining on the fair ground, and then took the cars for home, where we arrived about 8. Found Col Servant & Dr Mitchell of the Episcopal Church at my house, the Episcopal Convention being in session in Quincy—Has rained some this P. M. and has been quite cool through the day

Quincy  
† & Mt.  
Pleasant

Thursday Sept 13, 1860 Fine day—At home till 5 oclock P. M. when I took the cars for Galesburg, on my way to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, where I am expected to speak tomorrow. Reached Galesburg at 10, and staid all night at the depot house

\*Friday Sept 14 At 5 A. M. took the cars for Burlington, where I arrived at 7. Called at Brother Miltons & remained an hour, then took the cars to Mt. Pleasant where I arrived at 10 A. M. Stopped at the Brazelton House. At 2. P. M. addressed Republican meeting in the Public Square—About 10,000 people at the meeting. Wind blew a gale for the first hour and a half I was speaking—Then subsided and rained the rest of the time but we had a fine meeting, and people were attentive & enthusiastic. A number of ladies and gentlemen called on me after the speaking was over. Gov. Grimes,<sup>1</sup> among other prominent gentlemen, was at the meeting, but no one spoke but myself. About 6 o'clock P. M. took the cars on my way back to Illinois. Reached Galesburg from 9 to 10 at night & stayed all night

Mt. Pleas-  
ant & St.  
Mary's

Saturday Sept 15. At 5 A. M. left Galesburg on the cars & stopped at Plymouth, and from thence went with Mr Waters

<sup>1</sup>James W. Grimes, 1816-1872. Governor of Iowa from 1854 to 1858; United States senator, 1859 to 1871.

Quincy

of McComb about 5 miles to a locust grove in St Mary's township, where we had a fine Republican meeting numbering about 1500. The ladies had a collation upon the ground. After dinner I addressed the crowd for about 1½ hours & Mr Waters for an hour. We then came back to Plymouth, took supper with Dr King at Mrs Cook's, after which I took the cars for home, where I arrived at 10 O'clock at night. The day has been delightful, and altogether have had a pleasant time

Sunday Sept 16. Fine day—Did not get up till 9 O'clock and consequently did not get shaved in time for Church, but went at night.

Monday Sept 17. Very fine day. At home, and busy in office

Tuesday Sept 18 Pleasant day. \*At 6 p. m. took the cars for Springfield where I arrived at midnight & stopped at American

Spring-  
field &  
Lockport

Wednesday. Sept 19, 1860 Cool, cloudy day. Engaged in the Treasurers office hunting out frauds perpetrated by Ex Gov Mattison in stealing & funding State indebtedness. Took tea at Dr Brown's At 10 Oclock B C Cook of Ottowa, one of the investigating committee, Mr Whipp from the Treasurers office, and myself, took the cars on our way to Lockport to examine the canal office in reference to Mattisons frauds. Went into sleeping cars and went to bed

Thursday Sept 20 Arrived at Lockport at 5 A. M. Stopped at Morses Hotel. Dr Ray of Chicago, present Canal Commr & Josiah Mc Roberts of Ottowa, former Commr, met us here, and we spent the day making examinations in canal office. Took tea at Mr Goodings

Spring-  
field

Friday Sept 21, 1860 Left Lockport last night at 10½ O'clock & reached here at daybreak this morning. Stopped at American House—Have been all day engaged in investigation in the Treasurers and fund commrs office. Fine day.

\*Saturday Sept 22 Left Springfield at 3 A. M and reached home at 9½. Rained a little as we crossed the River, but

turned out a beautiful day. Gov Seward<sup>1</sup> came in on the Chicago train just a head of me, but I did not see him. He crossed the River without delay, and went on to Kansas

\*Sunday Sept 23 1860 Bright warm day. At Church A M and evening

\*Quincy

Monday Sept 24, 1860 Warm day. At work in office—

Tuesday Sept 25 At 5 this morning took the cars for Plymouth on my way to Carthage to attend a special Chancery term of the Court which commenced yesterday At Plymouth took the stage for Carthage and arrived at 11½ A M and stopped at Artois Hamiltons \*Hon Mr. Allen,<sup>2</sup> Democratic candidate for Governor arrived after night, when some of the democracy assembled at Hamiltons and were addressed briefly by him, Calvin A Warren and Tom Duff from the upper piazza in front of the house

Carthage

Wednesday, Sept 26. 1860 Cool, cloudy day. This morning Court adjourned till 9 O'clock tomorrow morning, and the Judge and the democracy generally went to Warsaw where Allen is to speak I remained here. \*Had a very heavy rain and thunder storm at night

Thursday Sept 27 Rather pleasant day. The rain tore up the rail road last night, and the Judge did not get back till about 1 O'clock P. M. having to come in carriage—Held Court in the afternoon—

Friday Sept 28. Cool, but pleasant day. Attended Court in forenoon, and speaking in afternoon. Very large Republican meeting here to day—Ten thousand or more. Yates & Prentiss spoke, and I a little while after they were done. Wide awake procession of a 1000, with their torches after night

Carthage  
& Quincy

At 11 O'clock at night Williams Grimshaw, Wheat & myself left Carthage in Hamiltons buggy and drove to Plymouth where

<sup>1</sup>William H. Seward. Governor of New York, 1838-1842; United States senator, 1849-1861; secretary of state, 1861-1869.

<sup>2</sup>James C. Allen. Born in Kentucky, 1823. Migrated first to Indiana and then to Illinois. Member of Illinois House of Representatives, 1850-1852. Representative in 33d, 34th, 38th congresses.

we arrived between 2 & 3 oclock A. M. and stopped at old man Cuylers

Saturday Sept 29 At 8 this morning took the cars home where I arrived at 10 A. M. This evening Mr & Mrs Gale of Galesburg came on a visit to us

Sunday Sept 30 Rained last night and this morning. At Church A M and P. M. Rained again at night

Quincy

Monday Oct 1. 1860 Fine day. Very warm. Mr & Mrs Gale left this morning for home. At 5 P. M. William Shipley left us to go to Chicago to work for some time.

Capt James N Brown and his son Charles of Sangamon County came to day with a herd of cattle, sheep & for exhibition at our fair. They are stopping with us. Charles is quite sick with putrid sore throat.

Tuesday Oct 2. Very warm, fine day. Grand democratic rally—Small affair—a failure About 'noon Mrs Browning and I went to the fair ground and remained till 4 or 5 P. M. Mrs McFadon & Mrs Cox with us—All dined out there, having taken provisions with us

Quincy &  
Carthage

Wednesday Oct 3, 1860 At 5 this morning took the cars for Plymouth on my way to Carthage. Breakfasted at Mr Cuylers at Plymouth & then came on to Carthage. Arrived at noon and stopped at Artois Hamiltons. Grimshaw & Delano along. Attended Court in afternoon

\*Thursday Oct 4. Warm and very beautiful day. Attending Court. Grimshaw, Delano and myself at Alex Sympons to supper.

Friday Oct 5. Fine warm day. Attending Court

Saturday Oct 6. Rained last night—Cloudy & warm to day. At noon adjourned Court till Monday, and Grimshaw & I took Hamiltons horses & buggy and drove down to Plymouth. Reached home at 11 P. M. Misting a little

\*Quincy  
&  
Carthage

Sunday Oct 7. 1860 One of the warmest days of the season.  
Sept  
At Church A M & P M Capt Jas: N. Brown of Sangamon and his son Charles left my house this morning for home

Monday Oct 8 At 5 this morning took the cars for Plymouth where we breakfasted at 7, and then Grimshaw & myself came on to Carthage in the conveyance we drove down in on Saturday, and which we left at Plymouth to await our return. Reached here a little after 10 A. M. Quite cool this morning—a little cloudy and a little windy. Traveled with overcoats on. Fire in the cars and fire in my room here.

\*Tuesday Oct 9 Very fine Autumn day. Attending Court

Carthage  
&  
Keokuk

Wednesday Oct 10 1860 Bright, fine Autumn day, but windy. About 10 A M went with Frank Marsh in his buggy to Hamilton on my way to Keokuk to attend Republican meeting. The wind was high, and difficult to cross the River, but landed on the other side before 12.

Dined at Sam Millers—then went to the woods up the River where the stands were erected for speaking. The wind blew almost a gale, but I spoke to a very large crowd for about two hours. Mr Thomasson of Chicago spoke from the same stand for about 15 minutes—Grimshaw and others spoke for a while from other stands—From 20,000 to 30,000 persons at the meeting. Brilliant wide awake procession at night

Carthage

Thursday Oct 11, 1860 Stayed all night at Sam Millers—<sup>last night.</sup> They sent Grimshaw & myself back to Carthage this morning in a good two horse carriage driven by a Mr Stimson. Large Democratic mass meeting in Carthage to day. Bright, pretty day, but quite cool.

Friday Oct 12 Heavy white frost last night—the first of the season Cool day—Attending Court

Saturday Oct 13 Frost last night—Cool, cloudy day. In P. M. adjourned Court till Monday. Grimshaw and I took Hamiltons horses & buggy and drove down to Plymouth where we left them, and went on home. Got home at 10 O'clock at night Miss Caro Simpson & Ellen Barret at my house

\*Quincy  
&  
Carthage

Sunday Oct 14, 1860 Frost this morning—Very lovely day. At Church A M & P. M.



\*Monday Oct 15 At 5 this morning started for Carthage—Came to Plymouth on the cars—Breakfasted at Cuylers tavern, and then drove to Carthage where we arrived at 10½ A. M. Attended Court in afternoon Lovely day—

\*Tuesday Oct 16 Big white frost this morning, and fine day—Attending Court

Wednesday Oct 17 Beautiful day. Attending Court

Thursday Oct 18 Fine day—Adjourned Court till Court in Course, and Grimshaw & myself came down to Plymouth in Hamiltons buggy, with his boy—took the freight train home, and arrived at 8 O'clock P. M.

Quincy &  
Macomb

Friday Oct 19. 1860 Fine day—At home.

Saturday Oct 20 At 5 this morning Jonas & myself took the cars for Macomb to attend Republican meeting—Stopped at Randolphs Hotel—Beautiful day—large & very fine meeting—After dinner Gov Bebb spoke for ¾ of an hour—Gov Corwin<sup>1</sup> for two hours and I for half an hour. Meeting was in the public square. At 7 P. M. took the cars for home and reached here at 10. Gov Corwin & his son William came home with me.

Sunday Oct 21 Cloudy and warm. After breakfast Gov & W<sup>m</sup> Corwin went out to Col Jamisons to spend the day with Mrs Osborne, the Gov's sister who is there

\*Returned to tea and staid all night. Not at Church at all to day, Dr Warren being absent, and I not getting ready in time to go elsewhere

Quincy

Monday Oct 22, 1860 Lovely day. Largest meeting that was ever held in the city met here to day. Gov Corwin, Gov Bebb, myself and some others were taken in carriages at 10 A. M. to join the procession. Drove round a while and returned to dinner. After dinner were taken in carriage to Washington Square where Gov Corwin addressed the crowd for about two hours, and Gov Bebb for one hour. After Corwin was was

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Corwin, 1794-1865. Born in Kentucky; moved to Ohio; Whig representative in Congress, 1831-1840; governor of Ohio, 1840-1842; United States senator, 1845-1850; secretary of the treasury, July 22, 1850-March 3, 1853; member of 36th and 37th congresses as Republican; minister to Mexico, 1861-1864.

Quincy

through he returned to my house—took tea, and left on the 5 O'clock train for Laselle where he is to speak tomorrow. Bebb remained and spoke in Concert Hall at night. Both in the afternoon and at night there was speaking in German on Washington Square by Krisman & Brentano.<sup>1</sup> Beautiful wide awake procession and illumination at night. My house illuminated and fire works exhibited. Have kept open house & have had a crowd all day. Fall term of Court commenced to day.

Tuesday Oct 23 Fine day—Attending Court—Party of about 60 persons at our house at night

Wednesday Oct 24 Beautiful & very warm day. Too warm for fire both yesterday and to day. Miss Simpson & Miss Barret left for home this forenoon. Attending Court—Commenced trial of State vs Boon Indct for Perjury. Miss Eliza OBannon arrived to day

Quincy

Thursday Oct 25, 1860 Fine day—Attending Court—Progressing with Boons trial

Friday Oct 26 Pleasant day—progressing with trial. Mr Dickerman, a congregational minister of Boston came to my house to day to stay during congregational convention now in session—Rained at night

Saturday Oct 27 Warm day. Progressing with Boons trial. I argued the case to the jury  $3\frac{1}{4}$  hours this morning—They took the case at 4 P M & at 9 rendered a verdict of guilty and fixed his punishment at one year in the Penitentiary. The verdict is an outrageous one, and the greatest possible indignation is expressed by community. Corruption is openly charged on the jury

Quincy

Sunday Oct 28, 1860 Very pleasant day—Not out at Church to day.

Monday Oct 29 Fine day Attending Court. Mr Dickerman left us to day

<sup>1</sup>Lorenzo Brentano, 1813-1891. Prominent revolutionist of Baden, Germany, who sought refuge in the United States and participated in politics as a Republican; editor-proprietor of the *Illinois Staats-Zeitung*, published at Chicago.

Tuesday Oct 30 Rain this morning—Attending Court Schuyler Colfax<sup>1</sup> to breakfast

Wednesday Oct 31. Cool cloudy day—Attending Court—

On Monday Colfax of Indiana made a Republican speech at Concert Hall at 7½ P. M.—Breakfasted with me Tuesday morning and went to Woodville with Prentiss to make a speech there

Quincy Thursday Nov 1, 1860 Rainy, dismal morning—\*Attending Court—Hon Schuyler Colfax at my house all night

Friday Nov 2 Rainy day—Attending Court Colfax & Prentiss went to Liberty to speak to day—Returned at night, and Colfax staid all night

Saturday Nov 3 Cloudy, cool day—Court adjourned at noon till next Wednesday—

Colfax went this morning to Camp Point where he is to speak to day, and then goes on home. At night I attended small Republican meeting for consultation at Loomis' room—Then went to Concert Hall and listened a while to Hecker<sup>2</sup> address the Germans.

Quincy Sunday Nov 4. 1860 Attended Church in the morning—Dr Warren being absent Mr Baker preached. I was not out again. Aurora Borealis about 9 O'clock at night. Mrs Browning sat up with Nat: Lane who was supposed to be dying

Monday Nov 5 Hard frost and considerable in this morning—Cool day. At work in office. At night attended large and enthusiastic Republican meeting at Concert Hall, and made short speech. Several others did same thing. At 10 O'clock went to party at Mr McFadon's, and got home at 12.

Tuesday Nov 6 Frost & ice this morning. Bright day & pleasant, but somewhat cool. At work in office. Election day—Everything going quietly

<sup>1</sup>Schuyler Colfax, 1823-1885. Representative from Indiana, 34th to the 40th congresses, speaker of the 39th and 40th; vice president, 1869-1873.

<sup>2</sup>Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker, 1811-1881, born at Baden, Germany. Eminent as a lawyer and politician in Germany, coming to America after 1848, and settling at Summerfield, Illinois, 1849; Republican; during the Civil War commanded a regiment of volunteers.

\*Quincy

Wednesday Nov 7, 1860 We were beaten in this City & County yesterday, but the pain of our defeat was greatly mitigated by the news of this evening, giving assurance that we had carried the state, and that Lincoln was elected President

Attended Court to day and argued motion for new trial in the case of People vs Boon. New trial granted Cloudy, misty day—

Thursday Nov 8. Ground covered with snow this morning, but it soon disappeared—Attending Court—At night attended meeting at the Court House to take measures for relief of Kansas—Crops failed & people are starving

Quincy

Friday Nov 9, 1860 Cloudy, murky day. Attending Court.

\*Saturday Nov: 10 Bright, beautiful, mild day—Attending Court. \*At 5 P M took the cars for Chicago on my way to Napersville in Dupage County to defend for Mrs Burch the suit brought against her by her husband Isaac H Burch for divorce<sup>1</sup> Got supper at Galesburg—took a sleeping car and came to Chicago

Sunday Nov 11. Arrived at Chicago at 6 this morning—Stopped at the Briggs House—breakfasted, made my toilet and went to church—South Presbyterian—Mr Cunningham preached After dinner went by request to Tremont House to see Hon Erastus Corning<sup>2</sup> of Albany N Y. Mrs Burchs uncle by whom I am employed

Chicago  
Napers-  
ville

Monday Nov 12, 1860 Between 9 & 10 O'clock this morning, in company with Mr Corning, Mr Beckwith,<sup>3</sup> Mr Farnsworth<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Burch divorce case was a suit brought by I. H. Burch, of Naper-ville, a Chicago banker, against his wife, alleging criminal relations with David Stuart. Barring some circumstantial testimony by relatives and servants the main evidence was confessions by Mrs. Burch and letters written by her. Suit was originally brought in the Cook County Circuit Court. *Quincy Whig*, February 11, 1860.

<sup>2</sup>Erastus Corning, 1794-1872. Established in business in Albany, 1814; representative in 35th, 37th and 38th congresses.

<sup>3</sup>Corydon Beckwith, 1823-1890. Born in Vermont; came to Chicago, 1853; practiced law.

<sup>4</sup>John F. Farnsworth, 1820-1897. Born in Canada; settled in Kane County, Illinois; in Congress, 1857-1861, 1863-1873; served in the Civil War as colonel and brevet brigadier general, 1861-1863.

and Mr Murrey, the latter three being of Counsel in the case, I took the cars on the Galena road, and came out to Wheaton. There we took the stage and came down to Napersville, 6 or 8 miles South of Rail Road. Stopped at N Y Hotel kept by Mr Becker. Fine day

Tuesday Nov 13. Very fine day. At work abstracting depositions. A few motions in the Burch case disposed of

Wednesday Nov 14 Some preliminary motions settled & the case set for hearing Monday next. Beckwith & Mr Corning went to Chicago this afternoon & Farnsworth went home. I am at work on depositions—Lovely day Wrote to Mrs B at night.

Thursday Nov 15. 1860 Very lovely Indian summer. As mild as May. At work abstracting depositions. \*The defendant Mrs Burch and her mother arrived to day

Friday Nov 16 Mild lovely day. After breakfast went with Mr Corning to call on Mrs Burch, and her mother Mrs Turner. Mrs Turner is a genteel, pleasant looking old lady—Mrs Burch about 30 yrs old—small—tolerably good looking, but not handsome & I should think not very attractive. \*She has been very much secluded recently, and does not seem in good health Needs exercise, and as the afternoon was fine I took a walk with her At work abstracting depositions

Saturday Nov 17, 1860 Fine morning—Argued objections to depositions on both sides in the forenoon. In the afternoon we all drove up to the Rail road, Farnsworth & I in a carriage by ourselves, & came into Chicago. Got here about dusk—Stopped at the Briggs House Room 203. Before we got to the Rail road the wind shifted and became quite cool—

Sunday Nov 18 Cloudy, windy, drizzly, cool disagreeable day Attended Mr Cunninghams Church in forenoon In afternoon wrote to Mrs Browning & Col N B Buford. Was introduced to Jno Covode<sup>1</sup> to day member of Congress from Peña He had been to Springfield

<sup>1</sup>John Covode, born in Pennsylvania, 1808. Representative in 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th congresses; Whig and Republican.

Naper-  
ville

\*Naper-  
ville &  
Chicago



\*Chicago  
& Naper-  
ville

Monday Nov 19, 1860 About 9 A M left Chicago on the Quincy road—Mr Corning having engaged a car on that road for us. At Wheaton took carriages & came down to Napersville—Cold ride Ice on the ponds. At 2 P. M. opened Court and empaneled a jury.

Tuesday Nov 20 Burch vs Burch opened for Compt by Mr Miller & for Deft by Mr Beckwith In afternoon entered upon the evidence—Blew & snowed this P. M.

\*Wednesday Nov. 21 Progressing with the evidence Chas Layton the gardner on the stand to day

Naper-  
ville

\*Thursday Nov 22 Miss Fanny Burch called and examined by Compt till 3½ P. M. and cross examined for Deft till adjournment at 6 without concluding Her evidence has been very damaging to us, and places the case in great doubt. This is the first that has made any impression whatever against us, but she has dealt us very heavy blows.

Bright, sunny morning, with white frost—In afternoon fierce snow storm. I took tea at Mr Haight's with Beckwith and Caulfield<sup>1</sup>

Friday Nov 23, Three or four inches snow this morning & cloudy & cold—bitter cold. The whole of to day has been occupied with the Cross examination of Miss Fannie Burch

Saturday Nov 24 Very cold. Snow crisp under foot in the sun at noon day. To day Compt called Valentine, Miss Spalding & Mrs Tho<sup>s</sup> Burch all of whom were examined

Naper-  
ville

Sunday Nov 25 1860 Cold gray morning, \*but much milder than for some days past. Was not out to day till I went at 4 P. M. to dine with Mr Beckwith & Mr Sedgewick at Mr Haight's Wrote to Mrs Browning

\*Monday Nov 26 Several inches of snow fell last night—Raining gently most of the day—Resumed the case of Burch vs Burch, and Compt closed his evidence with the exception of Mrs Burches Confessions which were offered & passed over till morn-

<sup>1</sup>Bernard G. Caulfield, born 1828 in Virginia. Graduate of Georgetown College and University of Pennsylvania; came to Chicago in 1853 to practice law; elected to 43d and 44th congresses.

ing Mr Vibbert M. C. from New York,<sup>1</sup> Gil Davidson of Albany, & others at my room till late at night Letters from Mrs Burch to sundry persons written immediately after her separation with her husband have been read in evidence with great effect against us Oh! that mine enemy would write a book

Naper-  
ville

Tuesday Nov 27, 1860 Cold, bright morning. Hard frozen—Thawing some through the day. Mrs Burch's confession were read which closed the evidence on part of Compt:

We have had Margaret OHara under examination, and have made a great impression of the case, and feel far more hopeful tonight than we have done.

Wednesday Nov 28. Bright, but cold morning—everything hard frozen, but thawing during the day—Progressing with the case in Court. At night adjourned till 2 P. M. tomorrow for thanks giving

Thursday Nov 29. Cloudy & thawing. Thanks giving day—Was invited to Mr Dudleys to dinner, but did not go—At 2 P. M. Court met, and we resumed the trial of the case of Burch vs Burch—

Naper-  
ville

Friday Nov 30, 1860 Warm damp morning, but much colder before night and hard frozen. To day we have examined Col Carpenter of Arkansas, and Hon David Stuart of Chicago, the latter being the person with whom the adultery is charged to have been committed

In the most emphatic, solemn and impressive manner, he denied under the obligations of his oath, not only that he had ever had criminal connection with Mrs Burch, but also asserted most solemnly that he had never on any occasion taken an indecent liberty with her. It seems to me impossible that he could have been swearing to a falsehood—It is incomprehensible that any one could, so solemnly devote himself to damnation.

The whole case is a mystery, and a study.

\*Naper-  
ville

Saturday Decr 1, 1860 Hard frozen, but bright, pleasant morning. Have lost one of my gold sleeve buttons, for which \$50

<sup>1</sup>Chauncey Vibbard, 1811-1891. Democratic representative, 37th Congress.

would have been no inducement to me to part with—they being a Christmast present from my own dear wife.

\*Boy found my button—

We got nearly through with our evidence to day. At noon Court adjourned till 2 P M on Monday—the judge desiring to go home

Sunday Decr 2, 1860 Cold, and very hard frozen. Davidson, Stuart, & Beckwith at my room in forenoon. Stuart went to Chicago about noon Farnsworth went home last night—Murray remained with me.

I have been in my room nearly all day, and have written a long letter to my dear wife In P M took a walk, and in passage a house a woman came to the door and spoke to me. It was Catharine, a German girl who formerly lived at my house—now the wife of a Lutheran minister named Quehl living here. Snowing at 6. P. M.

Naper-  
ville

Monday Decr 3 1860 An inch or two of snow fell last night, and continued to snow all forenoon part of the time heavily At 2 P. M. opened Court and proceeded with trial

Tuesday Decr 4 To day we closed the evidence on both sides at 11 A. M. and at 2 P. M. Mr Miller opened the argument for Compt and spoke till 6 without concluding when court adjourned Snowed last night

Stuart, Carpenter and nearly all of our witnesses left to day.

Wednesday Decr 5 Cloudy & cold. At 9 A. M. Mr Miller  
4 resumed his argument and continued till  $\frac{1}{4}$  before 1 P. M. when he concluded At 2 P. M. Mr Beckwith opened for the defense and spoke till  $\frac{1}{4}$  before 6 without concluding, when Court adjourned

Naper-  
ville

Thursday Decr 6 1860 Bright, cold morning, but thawing through the day. 5

Mr Beckwith concluded his argument  $\frac{1}{4}$  before 12, and Mr Hoyne commenced for the complainant and spoke till 12 when Court adjourned. At 2 P M he resumed & spoke till  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 5 when he concluded, and Mr Farnsworth commenced his argument for Defendant, and spoke till 6 when Court adjourned

Friday Decr 7. At 9 Mr Farnsworth resumed his argument and spoke till 12½ & concluded. At 2 P. M. I commenced my argument for Deft and spoke till 5, when, at my request, Court adjourned till 6½ when I resumed and spoke till 10 and concluded. An immense crowd in the Court house, both in the afternoon and at night, and although I did not speak quite to my own satisfaction they were all in tears, & all complimented me.

Naper-  
ville

Saturday Decr 8, 1860 Mild day. Cloudy A. M. and bright P. M.

At 9 Oclock this morning Mr Van Arman<sup>1</sup> commenced the closing argument for the Complainant and after speaking 2¼ hours the Court at his request adjourned till 2 P. M. at which time he resumed his argument and spoke 2½ hours without concluding, and at his request the Court adjourned till 9 Oclock Monday morning Mr Corning and Col Rathbone left for home this evening, and Mr Beckwith went into Chicago

\*Sunday Decr 9 Big frost this morning, but cloudy day & thawing. About 3 P M commenced snowing, and continued to fall heavily till night

Have not been out to day—Have written a long letter to my wife. Also wrote to Mr Lincoln upon the subject of Mr Bates appointment as Secretary of State, and of A Jonas as Post Master at Quincy

G. C. Davidson of Albany told me in conversation tonight that he had paid \$300,000 in the last few years to members of the New York legislature to influence their votes. That he paid \$145,000 last winter—\$30,000 to one man.

\*Monday Decr 10. About 5 inches snow this morning but thawing through the day. Court met at 9 A. M. At 10 Mr Van Arman resumed his argument, and \*concluded at 1¼. Court then adjourned till 2½, at which time the Judge charged the jury, and they retired at 3½. At 5½ it was announced the jury had agreed—we went to the Court house, and received a verdict for the Defendant amid the wildest excitement. The

Naper-  
ville

<sup>1</sup>John Van Arman, 1820-1890. Lawyer; removed to Chicago, 1858; served in Civil War; resumed practice in Chicago, 1865.

lawyers in the defence, and a large crowd of citizens and the jury went to call on Mrs Burch, and Mrs Turner her mother. Mrs Turner threw her arms around my neck, kissed me and wept like a child. At night the citizens with a band of music came and serenaded me, and I had to make them a little speech. The jury all called on me at my room, and afterwards Gil Davidson, and some of his friends made me go over to the preemption house<sup>1</sup> and drink and rejoice with them until 11 O'clock. It was a wonderful triumph, and the approval of the verdict seems to be unanimous. Gil C Davidson handed me \$100 to night as a compliment

Naper-  
ville &  
Chicago

Tuesday Decr 11, 1860 At 9 this morning we all left Naperville for Chicago. Mrs Turner, Mrs Burch, Mr Beckwith & myself in one sleigh accompanied by five or six others containing the rest of our party and a number of the citizens of Naperville who escorted us to Wheaton, the Rail Road Station. A large crowd awaited our arrival there to greet us. We took the cars and came to Chicago where we arrived before 12. Found a large crowd at the depot to greet us there. John Ayer took Gil Davidson, Mr Kingsley of Albany & myself in a carriage to take us to his house to dinner. I stopped at the Briggs House—got shaved, put on clean shirt, and then at 1½ went to Ayers to dinner, where I met Davidson, Stuart Sedgewick, Caulfield, Murphy and another gentleman whose name I do not know. They were all wild with delight over my speech. I find I am famous—Dav Stuart hugged and actually kissed me. After tea Caulfield and I called at Mr Peck's, to pay our respects to Mrs Peck, who had given us her countenance in the case, and had been out to Naperville to the trial. Mrs Burch & Mrs Turner her mother, are staying there, and I took leave of them.

Chicago

I then, by request, called at Mr Forsythes to an old school sociable. The ladies were introduced to me, and congratulated me upon, and thanked me for the result of the trial. I then called at John Ayers where we had dined, and at 10—went to my room and to bed

<sup>1</sup>The Preemption House was one of the oldest and most famous taverns in northern Illinois during the pioneer period.



Chicago

Wednesday Decr 12, 1860 Cold, but pleasant day. In the forenoon called to see G. C. Davidson & Beckwith at the Tremont House, about my fee in the Burch case. I charged \$2500 which they paid without a moments hesitation. Davidson had previously given me \$100. At 2 P. M. went to the Richmond House to dine with Mr Sergeant Superintendent of the Michigan Central Rail Road. The party consisted of Sargent, Davidson, Gale, Caulfield, Ayer, Beckwith, and one other person whose name I have forgotten

After dinner I went to the Recorders Court to see Judge Bob Wilson, & sat awhile with him on the bench—The case against Bissell for conspiracy to burn the Rock Island Bridge is on trial

Chicago

In the forenoon I went into the U S Court Room, filed some pleas, and called on Judge Drummond. In the forenoon at the Tremont House Mr Hayne<sup>1</sup> & Mr Munson of Lake County, solicited and received an introduction to me. They said their wives were in the parlor, and eager to see me. I went in, and was introduced to them—They thanked me, with tears in their eyes for my efforts in behalf of Mrs Burch—Mrs Haynes adding that her little son had not been able to read my speech it affected him so much, and that he said he wished he could see Mr Brown-ing \*At 9 Oclock at night left the Briggs House and went to John Ayers in Michigan Avenue to an oyster and wine supper, where I met about a dozen gentlemen During the evening left the company and went with Bob Forsythe to call on his wife next door. Saw her in her bed room, and spent about 15 minutes with her, and then returned to the company. Between 11 & 12 Oclock at night several of the gentlemen went with me to the depot—I bade them good bye and deposited myself in a sleeping car to come home.

Chicago  
& Quincy

Thursday Decr 13. Woke up at Galesburg about 7 or 8 o'clock this morning—Breakfasted and came on home where I arrived at 1 P. M. Wagley, Homer Mellen, and a Mrs Mellen

<sup>1</sup>Probably Elijah M. Haines, 1822-1889. Born in New York; admitted to bar at Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois, 1851; elected to legislature, 1858, 1860, 1862, as a Republican; elected as Independent, 1874, 1882, 1884, 1886, 1888; known as a skillful parliamentarian.

of Chicago came down as far as Colmer—Cold dry day—Mrs Cox called in the P. M. to see me.

Quincy Friday Decr 14, 1860 Pretty, cold, dry day. At home. Walking about Town a little but doing no work

Saturday Decr 15 At home. In afternoon called at Henry Bulls and Asburys

Sunday Decr 16 Cloudy, but mild. At Church A. M. and P. M.—Mrs Browning not very well, and not out in the morning, but was in P. M. Miss Osborne took tea with us, and I walked home with her soon after.

Monday Decr 17, At work in office all day—Cloudy but not cold. This P. M. received telegram from G. C. Davidson Albany N. Y. requesting me to meet Thurlow Weed<sup>1</sup> at Bloomington tomorrow, but I cant go

Quincy Tuesday Decr 18, 1860 Drizzling rain at intervals all through the day. At work in office

Wednesday 19 Dark, gloomy, muddy, misty day. At work in office—Wrote to Colfax—Harry & Roly Cox dined with us.

Thursday 20 Hard frozen this morning, and the ground just whitened with snow. At work in office Mrs Warren, and Dr Darrach & wife dined with us.

Friday 21. Snowing this morning, and quite cold—Continued to snow most of the forenoon, making two or three inches in all At work in office Received by express from Mr Hitt the manuscript of my speech in case of Burch vs Burch

\*Quincy Saturday Decr 22, 1860 Coldest day of the season. Pretty good sleighing—At work in office. Cloudy afternoon, and at night commenced to snow a little

\*Sunday Decr 23 Very cold day—At Church A. M. & P. M. Rev Mr Chase preached, Dr Warren being absent. Miss Baker dined with us and Mr Chase stayed all night He and I went in the evening to hear Jno B Gough lecture on temperance, at Mr Emery's Church—House immensely crowded, and very fine lec-

<sup>1</sup>Thurlow Weed, 1797-1882. Prominent Whig and Republican party leader and editor; for many years editor of the *Albany* (N. Y.) *Evening Journal*.

ture—He is a wonderful man—A natural orator & actor—Some passages of a very high order of eloquence—I never heard him before

\*Quincy Monday Decr 24, 1860 At work in office—Very cold morning—Has been snowing beautifully nearly all day, and now at night there is the finest snow on the ground I have seen for a long time

\*Tuesday Decr 25 Very fine winter day—Cloudy, but not cold, & snow enough to make good sleighing. Delano was with us at breakfast—Jake Caldwell would have been, but he was absent, in Texas Had merry times with the presents—Mrs B got a beautiful copy of Shakespear—carbuncle sleeve buttons & some other things—the young one a set of furs—big doll & other things. I was at home all day revising speech in Burch vs Burch Delano came and dined with us at 5 p. m.

Quincy During the day I received by express from Mr James Roy of West Troy N. Y. a splendid Gentlemans Shawl, as a present, accompanied with a complimentary letter in regard to my speech in Burch case.

I never heard of Mr Roy before, but he is, as he states, the manufacturer at Troy, and the shawl is really a magnificent article of American Production. At night Emma received by express, sent from Chicago, a box containing a pair of white rabbits, as a present from Wm Shipley.

Wednesday Decr 26 Cloudy, but fine winter day, and unusually fine sleighing for this region. At work in office—Sent the manuscript of my speech in Burch vs Burch, by express to Mr Beckwith. At work in office

Quincy Thursday Decr 27, 1860 Cloudy—Strong wind from South, but cold. Thawing some through the day. At work in office After supper called at Mrs Austins to see Ned Manson & his wife, and Miss Rachel Austin & spent an hour. They all went out to Dudleys to a party

Friday Decr 28 A mixture of rain & snow falling all day & very sloppy At work in office. Turned cold just at night, and froze very hard. After supper attended festival of the Educa-

tional Convention at Concert Hall—and I, among others made a little speech in reply to a toast.

Got home about a quarter before 12 O'clock at night

Quincy

Saturday Decr 29, 1860 Bright, beautiful day, and thawing quite fast. At work in office

Sunday Decr 30 Bright, cold day. At Church A M & P. M. Miss Osborne at home with us to dinner

Monday Decr 31 Cold, bright, fine winter day—thawing a little—Streets and sidewalks glazed with ice & have been for some days. At work in office After night at pleasant little party at I O Woodruffs—Had a handsome Christmast tree.

1861

\*Quincy Tuesday, Jan'y 1, 1861<sup>1</sup> This is a bright, beautiful, balmy morning, opening upon us almost like May. Mild, calm, a very gentle breeze from the South, thawing rapidly, and altogether a delightful morning. Miss Molly Osborne came and breakfasted with us. I desire to be, and hope I am, grateful to Almighty God for the undeserved mercies of the past years, and most earnestly do I implore his forgiveness for the manifold laws. I have done evil, and evil only, and my only hope is in the grace and padoning mercy of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ. And now that I am entering upon a new year, I beseech of Almighty God to be with me through all its changes, and vicissitudes, and to choose for me, and mine our changes, and to keep us continually in his care, and to guard & defend us from all the evils of life, and from all its sins, and its temptations to sin, and to keep our hearts continually full of gratitude, and love to him for his unspeakable mercies, and to make us continually mindful of our obligations to him.

Quincy \*About 11 A. M. I went out to make New Year calls, and called at Messrs Cox's, Flaggs, L Bulls, Jno: Tillsons, Sam Holme's, Asburys, C H Bulls, Rice's, McCanns, Collins & Mr Kingmans. Then went home and at 3 P. M. dined with Mrs Browning & Miss Osborne, who was spending the day with her, and then went out again & called at Mr Bushnells, I. O. Woodruffs, Glenns, Gilpins Jas Woodruffs, Dr Stanleys Erskins, Mrs Skinners, Jaspers, C A Savages, W<sup>m</sup> Bennesons, Sam Church Dr Ralstons, McFadons, Porter Smiths, Mrs Austins & Dr Warrens, and got home about 7 P. M.

<sup>1</sup>The diary for January 1—June 30, October 1—December 1, 1861, is in a book bound in black leather, with a strap in the front cover to fit a flap cut off the back. There is a pocket inside the back cover. There are 274 pages, size 3½ by 6 inches with simple ledger ruling, of which 192 are used; several leaves are missing and several more are loose.

The months July, August and September, 1861, are in a book bound in law-calf-colored leather. There are 116 pages, 13 blank, 4¼ by 6¾ inches, with plain ledger ruling.



The day has been delightful, thawing rapidly, and the water running flush through the gutters I have been out in dress coat, without overcoat, and abundantly warm. Alex Pearson, Delano & John Morton called at our house after night

Quincy Wednesday Jan'y 2, 1861. Jo: Green to breakfast—Bright, pretty day, but became quite cool in P. M. At work in office.  
\*Went to prayer meeting with Mrs Browning at night

Thursday Jan'y 3. Cloudy, and ground frozen but not very cold. At work in office getting ready for Court at Chicago Some fine snow in P. M. & evening

Friday Jan'y 4 Bright & tolerably cool day Bushnell went to Springfield Fast day for National Sins I attended Church at 3. P. M. Dr Warren preached Mrs Palmer to dinner

\*Quincy & Chi-  
cago Saturday Jan'y 5, 1861 At 11 O'clock A M took the cars for Chicago—dined at Galesburg at 3. P. M. and reached Chicago at 11½ P. M. Pleasant winter day. Not very cold—Did not get to bed till 1 O'clock

Chicago Sunday Jan'y 6. Did not get up till 8 O'clock—drank a bottle of Congress water, breakfasted and got shaved, but did not get my toilet made in time for Church. Cloudy, foggy, drippy kind of morning Am in No 79 on the second floor. They are to Change me to night. House full and could get no other room last night  
\*After tea W<sup>m</sup> Shipley called to see me, and he and I went to Mr Cunninghams Church Was prayer meeting in the lower room. Wrote to Mrs Browning this afternoon

\*Monday Jan'y 7 Snow'd heavily a while this morning, but cleared off and became a pleasant day Attending Court at the new rooms in the custom House—I moved into 203

Chicago Tuesday Jan'y 8, 1861 Attending Court. Pleasant winter day. Thawing a little but turned colder towards night

Wednesday Jan'y 9 Bright, pleasant winter day, but pretty cold. After breakfast went on North side, and got judge Drummond to go with me to Mr Berteaus French School to make arrangements for sending Emma—Attending Court Moved down into No 9 to day, and after Court wrote to Mrs Browning

Chicago Thursday Jan'y 10 1861 Very cold day. Attending Court. After night old Capt Gear of Galena, and his son of this place called. After they left I called for a short time on Mrs Winton

Friday Jan'y 11 Cold but pleasant winter weather. Attending Court. In afternoon went on N. side to see M Berteau at his French School about sending Emma After night Jno S Wright called and sat while, & then W<sup>m</sup> Shipley who left just before 9.

Chicago Saturday Jan'y 12, 1861 Snowing some in forenoon—Attending Court

Sunday Jan'y 13 Mild & thawing all day. At Mr Cummings Church in forenoon. In afternoon wrote to Mrs B. W<sup>m</sup> Shipley came to supper with me, and we then went to Mr Pattersons Church. Jno Wentworth came home with me, and sat an hour talking over political affairs, Cabinet appointments &c We both hope that Lincoln will not make such a mistake as to appoint Judd

\*Chicago Monday Jan'y 14, 1861 Ground covered with snow but foggy, and thawing, and quite disagreeable morning. Attending Court. At night attended Union meeting at Metropolitan Hall—Did not participate. Did not like the tone of it—too violent

Tuesday Jan'y 15 Dark, foggy, sloppy morning \*& rainy afternoon. Attending Court—In P. M. went on North side to see Miss Blythe at the French School in regard to placing Emma there, and at night called on Mrs Caulfield at the Tremont

Chicago Wednesday Jan'y 16, 1861 Cloudy, mild day. Attending Court—\*Wrote to Mrs B On yesterday I wrote to Lincoln giving a brief view of the duty of the government in regard to the secessionists, and remonstrating against the appointment of Judd to a place in the cabinet. I read it to Judge Drummond and it met his approval

\*Thursday Jan'y 17 Attending Court in forenoon—Wrote to Mrs Browning. In afternoon went to the Rail Road depot, and got a pass from Col Hammond for this year. On my way back called at Cooks Book store—Met Blackwell there—also Mrs Riley, Mrs Wilson, and Miss Dunlap—Went to another book store, bought Little Dorrett, and got back to my room a little before 4

Chicago

P. M. \*Cloudy, mild day. At night called on Mrs Burch & Mrs Turner at Mrs Pecks. Typographical festival here to night. I gave up my room to the Committee and moved for the night into 29.

Chicago \*Friday Jan'y 18, 1861 Cloudy, drippy, dismal day. Attending Court in forenoon—in afternoon read my speech in Burch vs Burch. Turned some cooler towards night

\*Saturday Jan'y 19. Much cooler than it has been for some  
8  
days—Frozen and commenced snowing about 9 A. M. but very soon ceased and was followed by a bright cold day. At Court in A. M. In P. M. called at Mr Browns to see Mrs Holmes but she was not in. Recvd a letter from Hon Schuyler Colfax & answered it \*Charles B Lawrence spent the evening with me—Had a good deal of conversation about politics, cabinet appointments &c We both thought it would be wise to give Holt<sup>1</sup> the war department, and I wrote to Mr Lincoln urging it.

Chicago

Sunday Jan'y 20 Very bright, pleasant day. At Mr Cunningshams Church in the morning—In P. M. wrote to Mrs B. Lawrence & Jim Adams called—At night went on North side, and attended Dr Rice's church with Miss Blythe. Cold, bright, moonlight night

\*Chicago

Monday Jan'y 21, 1861 Fine, bright, bracing winter day. Attending Court Judge Sedgewick called to see me at night

\*Tuesday Jan'y 22 Beautiful day, and mild—Attending Court—Col Buford called this morning just as I was out of bed, & breakfasted with me. In P M after court adjourned I called on Mrs Holmes at W<sup>m</sup> H. Browns After tea Buford was with me until 10 O'clock when he left for home

\*Chicago

Wednesday Jan'y 23, 1861 Fine morning—Attending Court. About 3 P. M. began a mixture of hail, rain and snow which continued till night

<sup>1</sup>Joseph Holt, 1807-1894. Douglas Democrat of Kentucky; member of Buchanan's cabinet, first as postmaster general and later as secretary of war; judge advocate general at the time of the Civil War; earnest supporter of Lincoln's administration.

\*Thursday Jany 24 Snowing heavily this morning but soon ceased & became a bright, but very cold day. Several inches of snow—fine sleighing. Attending Court In p. m. went again to see the magnificent picture of the Heart of the Andes Went to Mr James Pecks to tea, and returned at 8 O'clock

Chicago Friday Jany 25 1861 Bright, fine day, milder than yesterday & thawing a little in the sun. Attending Court—Wrote to Mrs Browning

\*Saturday Jany 26 Fine winter day. Attending Court—In p. m. took sleigh ride in Michigan Avenue with Mr

Sunday Jany 27. Pretty cold day. Attended Dr Rice's Church in forenoon. Some stranger preached. At night went to same Church with Miss Blythe & heard an excellent sermon from Dr Scott—Wrote Mrs B.

Chicago Monday Jany 28 1861 Fine, mild day. Attending Court

Tuesday Jany 29 Bright, pretty day, but quite cold, and became very cold towards night—Attending Court—wrote to Mrs Browning

Chicago Wednesday Jany 30 Up this morning at 4 O'clock and down at depot to meet Emma. The train had been detained and did not get in till about 7. Mr & Mrs Allen came with her on their way to Rochester—They were too late for morning trains, and have to stay over to day, and are stopping here at the Briggs House. Emma has come up to go to Mr Berteau's French school, but I am keeping her with me to day—

Cold morning and bright cold day. At Court A. M. In p. m. Emma & I called at Mr Browns to see Mrs Holmes—She was not in and we then called at Mr Pecks & saw Mrs Burch W<sup>m</sup> Shipley called to see us and remained an hour or so Mr & Mrs Allen left in the evening

Chicago Thursday Jany 31, 1861 Attending Court in the morning and closed my business there, intending to start home to night—Then went shopping with Emma, and took her to the Court rooms in the Custom house. Between 3 & 4 p. m. took her over to Mr Berteaus on North side, and left her with Miss Blythe \*At 7 p m went over to Mr Berteaus to see Emma and take

leave of her & got back a little after 8. At 11 left the Briggs House for the depot on my way home

Quincy

Friday Feby 1, 1861 Took sleeping car at Chicago last night and got up at Galesburg this morning, where I breakfasted. Reached home at 2 P. M. Has been a misty, half sleety kind of day, and raining a little at night. Mrs Gilpin & Mrs Cox called after I got home. Gave them each a copy of my speech in Burch case—

Saturday Feby 2 Ground just white with snow this morning. At work in office a little Fine winter day—bright and somewhat cold

Quincy

Sunday Feby 3, 1861 Bright, beautiful day, but pretty cold—Delano, and Jake Caldwell at breakfast Mrs Warren and Miss Deane to dinner—Not out in A. M. At Church at 3. P. M.—Rev'd Mr Kimball of Augusta preached

Spring-  
field

\*Monday Feby 4 Bright, lovely morning, mild as spring At 11 A M took the cars for Springfield to attend the Federal Court. On the cars met Gen A W Doniphan of Missouri, on his way to Washington, as one of the Missouri Commissioners to the border State Convention.<sup>1</sup> I had not seen him since we left College in 1830, but he recognized me as soon as we met. He is professedly a strong Union man, but thinks the government has no power to protect itself against the attempts of a state to break it up, and that any effort to do so will drive all the slave states into combination with the traitors of South Carolina. He is, in my judgment, utterly impracticable, and I have no hopes of anything being accomplished by the border State Convention Mr & Mrs Prevost were on the cars as far as Mt Sterling. Gov Wood was along as one of the Illinois Commissioners to the border State Convention at Washington. Asbury came to Springfield

Spring-  
field

We reached here at 5 P. M. I stopped at the American House, and am in room B—the bridal chamber

<sup>1</sup>This refers to the Peace Convention held at Washington in February, 1861, for the purpose of adjusting differences between the North and South. General A. W. Doniphan had played a brilliant part in the Mexican War.



After night Rutherford<sup>1</sup> of Madison County called to get my aid in securing him the appointment to Liverpool as consul

\*Spring-  
field

Tuesday Feby 5, 1861 Bright, beautiful, mild day. This morning I was called upon by Mr Freemam, the President of a bank in New York, and Mr Develin a lawyer of New York, who brought a letter of introduction from Gil Davidson of Albany, who wished to employ me in procuring a settlement with the State on account of State bonds known as the MCalister & Stebbins bonds which they hold.<sup>2</sup> I devoted the rest of the day till 4 p. m. to an investigation of the [*Leaf out of original.*]

Spring-  
field

\*Thursday Feby 7. 1861 Changed in the night and hard frozen and very cold this morning Met Mr Lincoln in the basement of the State House this morning. He took me aside and gave me a very earnest invitation to go with him to Washington, where he starts on Monday. My business engagements here will not allow me to leave, and I had to decline. He then asked a private interview with me some time during the week which I promised

Spring-  
field

Friday Feby 8, 1861 Bright, fine day, but tolerably cold Busy through the day—At 4 p. m. went to dine with Mr Free-

<sup>1</sup>Friend S. Rutherford of Alton, Illinois, 1820-1864. Member of the Republican National Convention of 1860; colonel of the 97th Illinois Volunteers; participated in the capture of Port Gibson in 1863 and in the operations around Vicksburg.

<sup>2</sup>In order to obtain money for the payment of interest on the state debt the Illinois fund commissioner obtained a loan in 1841 from the firm of Macalister and Stebbins of New York for \$321,000 (only \$261,560.83 of which was actually advanced) for which state bonds were hypothecated to the amount of \$804,000. The contract specified that the bonds should not be exposed to public sale provided the loan be paid within a stated time, but this obligation was disregarded, and many persons obtained the bonds expecting payment of the face value, while the fund commissioner considered that the state was bound to pay only the amount of money obtained upon them, with interest. By enactments in 1843, 1845, 1847 and 1849 the General Assembly provided for settlement of the bonds on the basis of the amount obtained on them. Some of the bonds were returned to the treasury on the liquidation of the Bank of Illinois in 1845; holders of the remainder tried to force the Governor to redeem them at face value, but on the failure of several devices accepted payment terms laid down by the legislature. *Reports to the Senate and House of Representatives*, 1842, pp. 75-76; *Laws of Illinois*, 1843, pp. 287-288; 1845, pp. 246-247; 1847, pp. 163-165; 1849, pp. 43-45; Greene and Thompson, *Governor's Letter Book*, 106, n. 3.

man of New York, in company with Singleton, Green of Massac & Carver of Chicago. Returned to my room between 6 & 7

Spring-  
field \*Saturday Feby 9 Very warm day. In the P M called on Mrs *Munson* at the Chenery House, and on Mrs Hovey at Mr Powells At night I called at the Chenery House, and had an interview of an hour with Mr Lincoln We discussed the state of the Country expressing our opinions fully and freely. He agreed entirely with me in believing that no good results would follow the border State Convention now in session in Washington, but evil rather, as increased excitement would follow when it broke up without having accomplished any thing. He agreed with me no concession by the free States short of a surrender of every thing worth preserving, and contending for would satisfy the South, and that Crittendens proposed amendment to the Constitution in the form proposed ought not to be made, and he agreed with me that far less evil & bloodshed would result from an effort to maintain the Union and the Constitution, than from disruption and the formation of two confederacies

Spring-  
field I expressed my views very freely, and there was no point upon which we differed. This is the first interview I have had with him since the election, and though brief it was satisfactory. I found him firmer than I had expected

\*Sunday Feby 10 Rained last night, and raining all the forenoon—Very warm & muddy. I had no umbrella—was not very well, and did not go out. At night went to Dr Browns Church

Spring-  
field Monday Feby 11, 1861 Cloudy in the morning, but cleared off and became a very pretty day. At 8 A M Mr Lincoln President elect, and suite started for Indianapolis, on their way to Washington He had invited me to go, but I had declined—Still however a ticket was given me through to Washington, and I agreed to start, and did so, but with no expectation of going farther than Indianapolis. Col Sumner<sup>1</sup> & Majr Hunter of the

<sup>1</sup>Edwin Vose Sumner, 1797-1863. Entered the army 1819 as second lieutenant, serving in the Black Hawk and Mexican wars, and on the western frontier; 1855 made colonel of the 1st Infantry; 1858 was in command of the Department of the West, and gave efficient service during the Kansas troubles. Commissioned brigadier general of regular army,

Spring-  
field

army were of the party, and I had a good deal of conversation with them. They assured me there would be no defection in the army on account of Southern secession. Also had much conversation with Mr Lincoln upon public affairs. He is entirely firm and decided in his purpose to maintain the Constitution and the Union

Indian-  
apolis

Dined at State line, and arrived at Indianapolis at 5 P. M. Had been crowds of people at all the stations along the road, and an immense concourse here I should think not less than 20,000 All stopped at the Bates House—All the streets in front, and the halls and stairways of the house were so packed with an eager crowd that we could scarcely make our way through them I occupied a room in Common with Dubois, Peck, Martin Cassell & George Latham Had to sleep two in a bed, and accommodations were very poor The crowd lingered around till midnight, and we did not get much sleep

Indian-  
apolis

Tuesday Feby 12, 1861 Beautiful day. Lincoln Col Sumner, Majr Hunter<sup>1</sup> myself and others went to breakfast with Governor Morton—Crowd followed us there, and back again. At 11 A. M. the President and his company left for Cincinnati Mrs Lincoln & children having joined here. I determined to go no farther, and will spend the day here. In forenoon visited the State House, and spent sometime on the floor of the Hall the house

---

1861, relieving Col. A. S. Johnston as commander of the Department of the Pacific; 1862 made major general of volunteers. Relieved at his request in 1863, he was appointed to the Department of Missouri and was on his way there when he died.

<sup>1</sup>David Hunter, 1809-1886. Assigned on graduation from the United States Military Academy to frontier duty; 1836 resigned and went into business in Chicago, reëntering the army in 1842 and serving in the Mexican War. He accompanied Lincoln through the whole journey from Springfield to Washington. Commissioned brigadier general, then major general of volunteers in 1861, he commanded successively the Departments of Missouri, of Kansas, and of the South. May 9, 1862, he declared Georgia, Florida and Carolina (his department) under martial law, and all persons held as slaves therein free. The order was annulled by the President within ten days. He then raised the South Carolina Volunteers, the first regiment of black troops in the national service. He presided over the commission that tried persons who conspired for the assassination of Lincoln.

His wife was a daughter of John Kinzie, founder of Chicago.

Indian-  
apolis

being in session. Dined at Edmund Brownings After dinner took a ride over the City with him, and called to see his daughter Mrs Harriet Stewart Took tea at Thomas Brownings, and at 7½ P. M. took the cars for home in company with Dubois, Irwin Grimshaw & others—At 10 at night we reached Lafayette where we took a sleeping car, and went to bed.

The trip to Indianapolis has been very pleasant, but is just about as much of that sort of thing as I want

\*Spring-  
field

Wednesday Feby 13, 1861 Reached Springfield at noon—Cloudy, disagreeable day—

Thursday Feby 14 Rained last night, and drizzling rain all day Attending Court in forenoon In P M about State House most of the time Called on Mrs Munson at Chenery House, and on Mrs Hovey at Mr Powells

Spring-  
field

\*Friday Feby 15 Snowed some last night & has been snowing at intervals through the day, but is wet and sloppy—Freezing some towards night After night I went before the judiciary Committee in regard to bill for refering the McCallister & Stebins bonds to the Supreme Court for adjudication I had prepared the bill and got the sanction of Dubois, Hatch & Butler to it before introducing it, or would not have had it introduced at all. Hatch & Butler, for some reason, afterwards opposed, and the Committee therefore reported against it. They Hatch & Butler have not acted candidly with me.

pring-  
field

I omitted to mention, at the proper time, that before parting with Mr. Lincoln at Indianapolis, Tuesday, he gave me a copy of his inaugural address, and requested me to read it, and give him my opinion, which I did.<sup>1</sup> I thought it an able, well considered, and appropriate, and so informed him It is, in my judg-

<sup>1</sup>It was upon Browning's advice that Lincoln made what his secretaries considered the most vital modification in his inaugural address by omitting that portion of his original draft in which he declared his purpose to "reclaim the public property and places which have fallen" (which might have been construed as a threat) and limiting his declared intention to that of holding, occupying and possessing the places which the government still held. Nicolay and Hay attach considerable importance to Browning's suggestions concerning the address. Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln*, 3: 322, 333-334.



ment, a very admirable document. He permitted me to retain a copy, under promise not to show it except to Mrs Browning

\*Spring-  
field

Saturday Feby 16, 1861 Snowing all day—Sometimes a fine drift, and sometimes heavily—Busy about the Court and Legislature. Sloppy through the day, but froze at night.

Sunday Feby 17 Snowed some last night—An inch or two on the ground this morning. At Dr Browns Church A. M. In P M wrote to Mrs Browning, Mr Lincoln & Gov Seward At night went to 3<sup>rd</sup> Pres: Church, and heard Mr Burch, a young gentleman preaching in trial

Spring-  
field

Monday Feby 18, 1861 Closed my business in Court to day—Argued the case of Paullin vs Worthington—expect to start home tomorrow Had interview in P M with Gov, Aud: Sec of St: & Treasurer, about McCallister & Stebbins bonds, but accomplished nothing Yates, Butler & Hatch are unwilling that a bill shall pass to refer it to the Supreme Court under which the Court could give judgment for the whole amount even though it should appear the holders were entitled to it

Spring-  
field

\*Tuesday, Feby 19, 1861 Beautiful Spring like morning—Am through. here and ready to start home At 11 took the cars for Quincy—dined at Meredosia and reached home between 4 & 5 P. M.

Has been a lovely day—

Wednesday Feby 20 Bright, Pleasant day & thawing, At work in office

Thursday Feby 21 Fine day—Rather Spring like—Bushnell dined with us—Have been at work in office and being bored with office Seekers—W<sup>m</sup> Shipley got home to day

\*Quincy

Friday Feby 22, 1861 At 9 A. M. Mrs Browning and I took passage on the Steamer Jeannie Deanes, Capt Sheble for St Louis I am going down to have an interview with Judge Bates before his departure for Washington The day is warm, Spring like, and delightful. Not many passengers Mrs Dr Johnson of Quincy & her little boy along—Did not get away from Hannibal till near night. In the night had a heavy thunder storm, and rain



On the  
River

Saturday, Feby 23, 1861 On account of storm and low water made but little progress last night, and ran on a sand bar this morning—Much cooler than yesterday—

Got off the bar & ran down below mouth of the Illinois, and after dinner ran on a bar again. It has become quite cold, and the wind is very high, and we cant get off The night was excessively tempestuous and very cold—Froze hard

St Louis

Sunday Feby 24, 1861 Before the day this morning were pulled off the bar, by the Desmoisine, and continued our journey to St Louis where we arrived in the forenoon, & stopped at the Planters House—room 92—

Remained there till after dinner, when Mrs Browning went to Mrs Barretts, and I took a carriage and drove out to Judge Bates, and had an interview of two hours with him upon the

St Louis

state of the Country & the policy of Mr Lincolns administration. He agreed with me that the property of the government should be protected—the Constitution and the Union maintained, and the laws executed, but differed with me in supposing that this would involve much trouble. He thinks the seceding States cannot maintain themselves long, and that firmness, decision and moderation on the part of the government will soon compel submission—that the State of things will soon become such that the real people will rebel against the traitors, and compel a return to allegiance.

St Louis

I got back to the City just at night and went to Mrs Barretts The day has been bright and pleasant Found Gibson at Mr Bates' Mr B is to start to Washington Tuesday

\*St Louis

Monday Feby 25, 1861 Fine day. About St Louis In p. m. Mrs Kennedy Mrs Browning & myself went to Floral Garden in Southern part of City and bot some flowers

Tuesday Feby 26 Lovely day—In a. m. Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Browning and myself took ride to Compton Hill—returned & called on Mrs Bennett—Mrs B & I dined with the Johnstons, and at 4 p. m. took passage on the Steamer Jeannie Deans for home.

\*Quincy

Wednesday Feby 27, 1861 Last night just above Alton met heavy ice—broke the paddles out of the wheels and had to lie by

all night mending them—Got home at 9 P. M. Mrs B was very sick all night last night, and all this day. The day has been very fine, and the night beautiful. On Monday, in our absence Miss Molly Lake who has been with us some time left us, by previous arrangement to return to her fathers in Canada

\*Quincy Thursday Feby 28, 1861 Fine Spring like day—At home, and at work in office

\*Friday March 1 Warm, sunny, spring day—sitting with doors open, and without fire—Hard at work in office—W<sup>m</sup> went to the Country this morning to his uncles. Dr Candee & Mrs Candee of Galesburg came to day, and are at our house to night

Saturday  
At work in office

Quincy Saturday March 2, 1861 Fine, warm day. At work in office. Dr Candee & Lady, and Rev Mr Emery & Mrs Warren and Mrs Stanley to dinner with us—Mrs Candee left on cars in P. M. for her home in Galesburg

Sunday March 3. Turned colder in the night & snowing very heavily this morning—Continued to fall for an hour or two, but melted as fast as it fell—Dr Candee preached at our Church to day, but I took medicine last night, and was not out till evening when I went with him to Mr Emerys where he preached.

Quincy Monday March 4, 1861 Bright, beautiful morning—Lincoln is to be inaugurated President to day, and we all feel great solicitude to hear that it has been safely and peacefully done. Court commences to day at Carthage and I am busy getting ready to go up tomorrow—Cloudy, cool afternoon \*Got the inaugural at night by telegraph

Tuesday March 5 Intended to start to Carthage on packet but did not. Dr Candee left in P. M. Bright lovely day—cool but pleasant. Rode with Mrs Browning in the evening Miss Dean with us

\*Quincy & Carthage Wednesday, March 6, 1861 Bright, beautiful day and very pleasant. Between 4 & 5 O'clock this morning took the cars on my way to Carthage to attend Court. Breakfasted at Plymouth—there started in stage coach with three other gentlemen be-

sides the driver, and two ladies and an infant, for Carthage. The roads were quite good, but we broke down—left the coach, and procured a common two horse wagon, to which we attached four, and came on. Reached here at 1 P. M. stopped at Artois Hamiltons, and attended Court in P. M.

Carthage Thursday March 7 1861 Pretty hard frozen this morning, but bright, pleasant Spring day—Attending Court

Friday March 8. Pleasant spring day Attending Court—

Saturday March 9 Turned cold in the night, and ground white with snow this morning. Cold, cloudy, winday day. Attended Court. A. M. At 1 P M started home via Plymouth—

Warren

Wheat, Grimshaw, & Loomis along—In open buggy of Hamilton Drove to Colmar, and just before night got on a freight train and reached home about 10 O'clock. Found Miss Osborne & her little sister at our house

Quincy

Sunday March 10 Very cold last night—Water froze in our room, but the day was bright, with pure, bracing atmosphere Not out forenoon. At 3 P. M. called on the Misses Moore who have recently come here, and went with them to Church. Mr Emery preached for us.

Quincy

Monday March 11, 1861 Very fine day, but some what windy & dusty In the office writing letters on behalf of other persons—Have written to President Lincoln for Robt L Browning—to Kasson 1<sup>st</sup> Asst: P M Genl. for D I Caldwell & old man Burchard, and to Mr Bates for Lee & others

\*Tuesday March 12 Very fine warm day. At work in office Mrs Cox dined with us—Wrote to Emma and sent box of fruit &c

\*Quincy & Carthage

Wednesday March 13 1861 Between 4 & 5 this morning took the cars on my way to Carthage—breakfasted at Plymouth & then came on the stage and reached here at 11½—Delano, Loomis & Young Mr & Miss Cuyler in the stage with me. Cloudy, cold day—Attended Court in P. M.

Thursday March 14 Cold, cloudy morning—hard frozen. The P. M. was bright & pleasant & the night very clear & beau-

tiful Attending Court. Took tea at Alex Sympons in company with Delano & Robt Lincoln S C Sherman in my room with me to night

Carthage Friday March 15, 1861 Mild, pleasant day.

Attending Court—Have about closed my business and hope to go home tomorrow

Saturday March 16 Quite pleasant day—Attended Court A. M. After dinner Mr Wheat and myself took the stage for Plymouth on our way home. \*Got supper there—then took freight train & reached home at 8 P. M. \*Turned cold after night—Mrs Bartlett at our house on visit

Quincy Sunday March 17, 1861 Cold day, but pretty Not out in forenoon At 3 P. M. went to Church No preacher—Dr Dar-rach read a sermon

Monday March 18. Cold bright day. At work in my office Wrote two letters to Prest Lincoln, and one to Hon Jno: A Kasson

Tuesday March 19 About one inch of very light, feathery snow on the ground this morning, but not cold, and by noon it was all gone & streets dry. At work in office

\*Quincy Wednesday March 20, 1861 Very cold day. Wind from the North and quite like winter—Dr Candee dined with us. In P. M. Mrs B and I rode out to place in 8<sup>th</sup> street—\*Dr & Mrs Warren & family at our house to tea—I went to prayer meeting at night

Thursday March 21 Pleasant day, not nearly so cold as yesterday At work in office \*Republican meeting at the Court House at night. I made a speech and Resolutions drafted by me were adopted

Quincy Friday March 22, 1861 Between 4 & 5 this morning Mrs B and I took the cars for Chicago to see our little daughter Emma, who is there at Mr Berteau's French school. The morning was mild & cloudy—and raining a little, but before night it became quite cold. Mrs B had head ache and tooth ache very badly, but got some better during the day. Reached Chicago at 5½ P. M. when I went for Emma, and brought her to the Briggs

House. Miss Aldrich of Minnesota came up on the cars with us—

**Chicago** Saturday March 23, 1861 Cold stormy day—very high wind—Freezing, and snowing a little at intervals through the day. In P. M. Mrs Browning, Emma and I called at Mr W<sup>m</sup> H. Browns and at Mr Berteaus I was at Court in the morning and did a little business

Sunday March 24 Bright, calm and rather pleasant forenoon. Emma and I went to Dr Rices Church—Some stranger to me preached. Mrs B did not go out Judge Drummond & wife called at night

**\*Chicago** Monday March 25, 1861 Rather pleasant morning At 11 A M left the Briggs House for home, taking Emma with us to give her a weeks holliday Just before night came up a thunder storm—Had a very pretty rain with high wind Got safely home at 1. O'clock at night Found Miss Eliza O'Bannon at our house, who came the day we left, that is, Friday Mrs B. much fatigued and quite unwell when we got home

**Quincy** Tuesday, March 26, 1861 Cloudy, misty day—At work in office, and in Court, the Circuit Court having commenced its session yesterday. Wrote to President Lincoln on behalf of C. B. Lawrence

Wednesday March 27 Attending Court Rather pleasant day

Thursday March 28 Pleasant day. Attending Court—Cloudy & thunder & lightning at night. Jake Caldwell & Mr Hopper called after tea

**Quincy** Friday March 29, 1861 Commenced raining before day this morning and continued till noon—when it became quite cool—Mrs Moore & family & Dr Warren & family to tea

Saturday March 30 Quite pleasant day. Court adjourned in A M till Wednesday. Rev: Dr Brown of Springfield arrived to dinner Dr Warren & family also at dinner

Sunday March 31 Rained all A. M. and heavily again at night with thunder and lightning. At Church A M and P. M.—Dr Brown preached



Quincy

Monday Apl. 1 1861 Up at 3 O'clock this morning, and at the depot between 4 & 5 with Emma who started back to her school at Chicago Maggy Warren has been at our house several days and went with her as far as MaComb where her father and family went on Saturday Miss Finley of Chicago who has been at Mr Erskine's on a visit was also in company on her way home—Dr Brown left at 4 p. m. Cloudy, chilly morning, but mild, beautiful p. m. At work in office. Wrote to Mrs Cornelia Browning

Quincy

Tuesday Apl. 2, 1861 Bright, lovely day At work in office

Wednesday Apl. 3 Raining a little at intervals through the day. At work in office and in Court which was reopened to day

\*Thursday Apl. 4 Heavy wind all last night, and cloudy, windy and warm to day. Attending Court. Had fine shower between 5 & 6 p m

Friday Apl 5 Rained a great deal through the night, and at intervals to day. Quite warm Attending Court

\*Quincy

Saturday Apl. 6 1861 Warm & raining all the a. m. Attending Court & working in office. Sent Emma, by express, a box of nick nacks for her birth day, which occurs on Monday

Sunday Apl. 7 Rained all day, and continued to rain at night Attended Church a m & p. m. Mr Hays of Macomb preached.

Monday Apl. 8 Cloudy & somewhat cool. Attending Court. Mr Marcy, a member of the bar, cut his throat to day in a fit of delirium tremens Judge Sibley to tea [*Leaf out of original.*]

Friday Apl. 12, 1861 Has rained all day. At work in office. Wrote President Lincoln in behalf of Robert L Browning, and also a long letter on public affairs—

Saturday Apl. 13 Cloudy & somewhat cool—raining a little at intervals but the sun out before night News came to day that the traitors at Charleston had attacked Fort Sumter, and that hostilities were commenced in earnest

Quincy

Sunday, Apl. 14, 1861 At 1 O'clock a m news was received that Sumter had been captured by the traitors—Several hundred people assembled at the Court House, and the bells in the City

Quincy  
Friday,  
March

were tolled. I don't believe the story, but it has occasioned great excitement. Fine day—At Church A M & P. M.—Mr Gear, a young gentleman from Chicago preached. Miss Baker with us to dinner, and Alex Sympson of Carthage to tea

Quincy Monday Apl. 15, 1861 Fine day, but something cooler than yesterday. At work in office. Wrote to Jno: A. Kasson <sup>warmer</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Asst P M Genl on behalf of G W McGrew of Lecompton. Very conflicting account from Fort Sumter—Proclamation from President Lincoln convening Congress on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, and calling for 75,000 troops to put down unlawful combinations. Maintain the Union enforce the laws &c All rejoiced to see it

\*Quincy Tuesday Apl. 16, 1861 Some frost this morning, but fine day. At work in office. At night attended a small meeting of Republicans at Savages office to consult about having this place made a military depot.

Quincy Wednesday Apl. 17. Wrote an article for the paper to day defending the Presidents proclamation—Also wrote resolutions to be presented at a meeting to night, called without distinction of party, for purpose of sustaining the administration The meeting was immense. I presented the resolutions. They were unanimously and enthusiastically adopted. The meeting was addressed by Barney Arntzen, I. N. Morris, myself, Grimshaw Bod Latham & Dr Rutherford.<sup>1</sup> Treason is done for here. It cannot lift its head. All men of all parties are now for the Government. I had greatly feared treason in our midst, as many of the democrats have been denouncing the government & sympathizing with secession. Rev Mr Gear of Chicago at my house

Quincy Thursday Apl. 18, 1861 Cool, windy, dusty day. At work in office. Wrote to President Lincoln on the state of the Country \*Mrs B. Miss O'Bannon, Mr Gear & myself went to tea to Mrs Moores

<sup>1</sup>Reuben C. Rutherford of Quincy, Illinois, 1823-1895. Specialist in physiology and hygiene; took part in the movement for founding state universities by federal donations of land; served in the Civil War in the state quartermaster's department; breveted brigadier general; brother of Friend S. Rutherford.

Friday Apl 19. Pretty cold last night but mild, bright day  
At work in office \*Bushnell started for the East to day. At  
night I attended ward meeting at Engine house—Organized  
a company of home guards elected Penfield Capt. Pat Shanahan  
first & A I Lubbe 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut

Quincy Saturday Apl. 20, 1861 Very fine day. At work in office.  
Am immense meeting at the Court House at night—Addressed  
by myself & others. Organized Seven Companies of home  
guards into a battalion. Elected Capt James Dunn Col: W<sup>m</sup>  
Lockwood Lt Col: and W<sup>m</sup> Shanahan Majr.

The home guards consist of one from each ward & Capt W<sup>m</sup>  
Steinweddels independent company. During the Speaking Col  
Richardson was called for but did not appear—Has not been  
with us

Quincy Sunday Apl. 21. 1861 Raining this morning but cleared off,  
and was a fine warm day. Attended Church in A. M. Mr Gear  
preached. At 12, M. the pastors of the Churches in the City met  
Capt Prentiss and his Command in Washington square to give  
them a parting benediction The flag of the old guards was pre-  
sented by Capt Morgan—"My Country 'tis of thee" was sung  
by Mr Denman and others—Prayer made by Rev Mr Jaques—  
Quincy The troops addressed by Rev Mr Foot & myself—It was the most  
impressive scene I have ever witnessed. Thousands were on the  
ground, and whilst I talked there was not a dry eye—Many wept  
aloud

We all then marched to the depot, where the "star spangled  
banner," was sung by Denman & others, five or six thousand  
joining in Chorus. At ¼ before two the cars started with the  
command consisting of about 180 men—They go to the rendez-  
vous at Springfield

\*Quincy Monday Apl. 22, 1861 Very warm this morning. †Wrote  
to President Lincoln† At 6½ P. M. in company with Ed Wells  
R S Benison & others took the cars for Springfield. At 9 O'clock  
at night crossed to River in a boat, the wind blowing pretty  
strongly.

Reached Springfield at 12½. Found cars on the tract at  
Springfield filled with troops about to start to Cairo under com-

mand of Col Prentiss. The Quincy company was one those going—I saw W<sup>m</sup> Shipley Henry Asbury and a few of the boys for a moment

Spring-  
field

A scheme had been set on foot, and about perfected by traitors in Southern Ills in confederacy with other traitors in Missouri and Tennessee to sieze Cairo—cut of all the State South of the Ohio & Mississippi Rail road—erect it into a state and join the Southern confederacy. To prevent the execution of so diabolical a plot it was deemed advisable to anticipate them in the occupation of Cairo, and it is now in possession of 1200, or more of our troops under command of Col Ben Prentiss

Spring-  
field

Tuesday Apl 23, 1861 Very warm with some rain in the morning. In A. M. visited Camp Yates in company with Oglesby, Marshall and others.

Legislature convened to day and received the Govs message. Took tea at Dr Browns Became cool enough for fire in the evening I have been most of the day and till 11 O'clock at night in Consultation with the Gov: and others on the State of public affairs—Intended to go home tomorrow but will have to remain

Spring-  
field

Wednesday Apl. 24 1861 Quite cool day—windy but bright.

Busy about the State House most of the day and till 11. at night<sup>ay</sup>

Spring-  
field

\*Thursday Apl. 25 Fine Spring day. Some of the democracy are contrary, and making opposition to the Military bill which is necessary to be passed. Judge Douglass arrived this morning—He professes to be, and I presume is warmly for sustaining the government in her efforts to put down treason and rebellion in the South, and seems anxious to produce harmony and concert of action between the Republicans and democrats, and to this end he requested an interview with me. After conversing with him we met Gov Yates, Sen: Trumbull, Koerner, Brayman<sup>1</sup> & others, who refered matters to Douglass and myself for adjustment. We saw

<sup>1</sup>General Mason Brayman, 1813-1895. Resident of Springfield, Illinois; breveted major general in the Civil War; editor of the *Illinois State Journal*, 1872 to 1873; governor of Idaho Territory, 1876 to 1880.



Spring-  
field

the Chairman of the military committee and soon came to an understanding which we think will bring an almost unanimous vote to the support of the Military bills. I drew up one which is satisfactory to all parties in regard to the excess of volunteers now here over and above what were demanded by the President, and we hope the bills will all be passed tomorrow

\*At night Douglas made a speech in the hall of the house declaring himself ready to stand by the government to the uttermost extremity in putting down treason

Spring-  
field

Friday Apl 26. 1861 Very warm, windy and dusty. Troops still arriving Had conversation with Douglass in which he declared himself unqualifiedly for the government against all attempts to overthrow it, and said very emphatically that we ought to meet the traitors beyond the line, and fight the battles 'on their own soil. \*He goes much further in his conversations than he did in his speech, and declares without conditions that the Government must be sustained, and rebellion put down

Spring-  
field

Douglass told me that prior to the Nov election a deliberate contract was entered into between Buchanan, Davis Floyd,<sup>1</sup> Toombs<sup>2</sup> & others, that if they could carry all the slave states & Oregon & California, for Breckenridge that then Buchanan should hand the government, army navy and all over to him, that he should be inaugurated—seize upon the government and complete the revolution by deposing Lincoln, or rather by preventing his inauguration. Douglass says he knows this to be a fact

Spring-  
field

Douglass and Trumbull both told me that it had been determined upon in Cabinet to evacuate Fort Sumter, but that Lincoln would not issue the order, and finally did give an order for furnishing supplies which brought on the attack upon Sumter.

<sup>1</sup>John B. Floyd of Virginia, secretary of war under President Buchanan, was accused of having fraudulently distributed cannon among the southern states in the months prior to the outbreak of the Civil War; but was exonerated from this charge by a committee of the House of Representatives in January, 1861. James Buchanan, *Mr. Buchanan's Administration on the Eve of the Rebellion*, 187; J. B. Moore (ed.), *Works of James Buchanan*, 12: 199 ff.

<sup>2</sup>Robert M. Toombs, senator from Georgia, 1853-1861; later a member of the Confederate Congress and a Confederate brigadier general.



Douglass says Forsyth<sup>1</sup> one of the Southern Commrs told him that Seward had several times assured him most positively, in the presence of Judge Nelson of the Sup Court that the cabinet had determined to evacuate Sumter, and that it should be done

Spring-  
field  
& Quincy

Saturday Apl 26. 1861 Raining this morning, and continued till near noon Between 4 & 5 A. M. left Springfield for home where I arrived between 11 & 12—Found letter from Glover of St

Sunday Apl

Louis in regard to treason in Mo: and wrote to Gov Yates upon the subject

Sunday Apl. 28 Fine day—Attended Mr Kings Church in A. M. and Mr Emerys at night, being no preaching at Westminster Church Tom Moore to supper

Quincy

Monday Apl. 29, 1861 Sprinkled a little this morning—Cloudy day—At work in office writing letters—Wrote to Secretary Hatch about having force here to protect our friends in Missouri

Tuesday Apl. 30 Bright day & pleasant—At work in office. Wrote a long letter, 6 pages, to President Lincoln upon the policy of the Administration in the present crisis, urging the most vigorous measures and suggesting the the cotton states might have to be given up to the negroes

Quincy

Wednesday May 1, 1861 Beautiful morning but quite cool—Fire very comfortable. At work in office At 3 P. M. Mr Snyder Editor of Whig & Republican & Mrs McDonald, Mr Bushnells sister, were married in the Episcopal Church. I did not get to Church to witness the ceremony—but was with the company at Mr Bushnells This morning I put my mare Nellie to Byingtons black Morgan horse, and this P. M. took her out to my place in 8<sup>th</sup> street & left her with Huscall

<sup>1</sup>John Forsyth of Alabama was one of the Confederate commissioners sent to Washington to "negotiate" with the government of the United States concerning the withdrawal of the seceded states. They were not officially received, but through certain go-betweens, especially Justices Nelson and Campbell of the Supreme Court, they believed that they had been informally assured by Seward of the purpose of the Lincoln administration to evacuate Fort Sumter. H. G. Connor, *John Archibald Campbell*, 109-148.

\*Quincy Thursday, May 2 1861 Quite cool—Fire necessary all day. At work in office Bushnell got home from the East last night

\*Friday May 3. Rained last night & warm this morning, but became quite cool before night At work in office

Saturday May 4 Quite cool—fire necessary—W<sup>m</sup> Holmes Esqr of Kansas, who was my neighbor boy in Ky, called this morning on his way to Washington for an Indian Agency—Too late for cars & went to Hannibal to see some friends

Quincy Sunday May 5. 1861 Rained & blew nearly all night—Tore our flag into tatters—Raining this morning—Attended Church A M & P. M. Mr Hare preached Mr Holmes returned from Hannibal and dined with us—then took the cars late in P. M. for Washington Mr Allen & Mr Hare & Miss Asbury with us to tea—Cleared off in P. M. and became quite cool

Quincy Monday May 6, 1861 Bright, pleasant morning, but became cool enough for fire—Has been one of the most capricious days of the season—Alternate sunshine & shower compounded of hail & rain with very heavy gusts of wind. Blew down liberty pole in Washington square—Several hundred troops arrived to day to go into Camp—

D H Solomon & wife of Elwood Iowa & Miss Nettie Chinn of Jacksonville here on their way west, I saw them at Quincy House

Quincy Tuesday May 7, 1861 Cloudy, chilly day—Fire necessary—Capt Smith & a Hancock Company arrived to day to go into Camp—Alex Simpson here on his way to Washington—

\*Wednesday May 8. At work in office

Thursday May 9 Fine warm day, but rained a little in the evening—At work in office

\*Friday May 10 Very fine day. At work in office

Saturday May 11 Rained last night—Warm day. At work in office

\*Quincy Sunday May 12, 1861 Rained last night and occasionally through the day Attended funeral of Rev Geo: P Giddings at the Episcopal Church in the forenoon. He died at Palmyra two days ago

Dr Greenleaf of St Louis dined with us and he and Charles B Lawrence of Warren County Ills took tea with us Great disturbances in St Louis with the loyal Citizens & traitors and Greenleaf is on his way to Knox County—Some 50 he says have been killed

Quincy &  
Oquawka

Monday May 13, 1861 Cloudy morning & day, but cleared off before night and became quite cool—Left home this morning at 5 O'clock for Oquawka to attend Court—Jno Williams with me—Came to Galesburg by Rail & thence to Oquawka junction, wher Judge Tyler, Jno Williams, Jim Stewart & myself took a hack and came to Oquawka—Stopped at Barnes—Attended Court in p. m. After Court called to see Mrs Dallam & Mrs Austin.

\*Oquawka

Tuesday May 14, 1861 Bright & cold—Fire necessary to comfort. Attending Court. At the urgent request of the citizens I addressed a very large concourse of ladies and gentlemen at the Court House, at night, on the state of the Country

Wednesday May 15 Bright & quite cold. Fire very necessary. \*At 5 p. m. left Oquawka—Drove down to junction in hack—took Rail Road to Galesburg where I arrived at 9½, and staid all night at Depot house

Quincy

Thursday May 16. 1861 Bright, beautiful day. At 4 a. m. left Galesburg on Rail Road and reached home at 9 a. m. Mrs Capt Ford spent the day with us After tea Mrs B and I rode out to place in 8<sup>th</sup> street—Judge Meeker of Minesoto at my house in the evening

Friday May 17. Very lovely day. At work in office. At night attended concert at City Hall with Miss O'Bannon, given by Ossian M Dodge

\*Quincy

Saturday May 18, 1861 Fine day. At work in office. After tea Mrs B & I made call at Henry Bulls

\*Sunday May 19—Rained last night, and raining this morning Attended Mr Kings church in a. m. and Mr Emerys at night

Monday May 20 Rained last night & cold drizzly, disagreeable day \*At work in office Henry Bull & wife, Mrs Agness Baldwin & Mr & Misses Palmer at our house to tea

\*Quincy Tuesday May 21, 1861 Bright, pretty day, but quite cool—Fire necessary—At work in office

Wednesday May 22 Pretty day, but cool—At work in office.

Thursday May 23. Fine warm day. At work in office. After tea Mrs B & I rode to place in 8<sup>th</sup> street

Quincy Friday May 24 Very warm day. At 10 A. M. I was sent for to the camp to make a speech to the volunteers, Capt Pitcher of the U S Army having arrived to administer the oath of allegiance, and muster them into service for the war; and as they volunteered for 30 days only it was feared they might refuse to take the oath. I went out and addressed them for half an hour—Grimshaw made a few remarks, and Morris a few—Eight of the ten companies having the full complement of men willing to enter the service for the war were then sworn in—The other two companies, one from Henderson, the other from Schuyler, lacked a few men each, and were therefore not received, but were allowed until some time next week to fill up the companies

Quincy

I remained on the ground until 3½ P. M. and dined at head quarters

\*Saturday May 25 Warm day. At work in office.

Sunday May 26 Very warm & windy. At Church A M & P. M. Rev Mr Barstow, a young man from Allegheny Seminary preached

\*Quincy & Carthage

Monday May 27, 1861 Between 4 & 5 this morning took the cars in company with Delano & Grimshaw for Carthage to attend court. Breakfasted at Plymouth where Tunnecliffe and Sid Little joined us, and we all came on in the stage together Reached here before noon and stopped at Artois Hamiltons, and attended Court in P. M. Bright, beautiful day but much cooler than yesterday

Carthage & Quincy

Tuesday May 28, 1861 Cool, gray morning. About 10 A. M. began to rain a little. Have continued all the cases in Court and will start home after dinner. \*Went to Plymouth in stage with

Delano Grimshaw & Tunnecliffe, at P. M. took the cars and reached home at 10. Jake W Caldwell, and Miss Emily Ralston were married this evening, and after getting home I attended their reception, from which I returned a little before midnight

Quincy

Wednesday May 29, 1861 Bright, cool day. At home writing & sending out tickets for a party on Friday evening Rev Mr Barstow came to our house to day to remain some days.

Thursday May 30. Bright, calm, cool day. At work in office

Friday May 31. Quite warm—Raining in A. M. Cleared off in P. M. and had a very pretty night Party of near 200 persons at my house, given to J W Caldwell & his wife

Quincy

Saturday June 1, 1861 Very warm morning. Rode out to Camp Wood about 9 A. M. to see Capt Pitcher who arrived this morning to muster some additional troops into service. He swore in Capt Mc Alisters Company from Schuyler County, and some recruits to other Companies

Commenced raining about noon, and had some fine showers during the P. M. My brother in law Dr William Robertson of Buchanan County, Mo, arrived this P. M. on his way to Ky. to join his family. Has a negro man of Genl Atchison with him

Quincy

Sunday June 2, 1861 Warm, cloudy day. Rev Mr Hummer of Atchison, Kansas, arrived this morning, and remained with us through the day and night At Church A M & P M. Mr. Barstow preached in morning, Mr Hummer in P. M.

Dr Robertson being apprehensive of trouble in Missouri, brot his deeds to land over, and left them with me for safe Keeping. [*Leaf out of original.*]

Spring-  
field

Wednesday June 5. 1861 Pleasant day. Nothing done in Court. After tea called at Robt Erwin's & Mr Redgely's.

Thursday June 6. Warm morning. Heavy rain from 8 to 9 A. M. Took tea at Dr Browns

\*Friday June 7. Fine day & very warm—Meeting of the bar this morning in Federal Court room in regard to Douglass' death. I offered resolutions and made a short address which were pre-



sented to the Court by Hon O. B. Ficklin,<sup>1</sup> and ordered to be spread upon the records Took tea at Dubois with Mr Voris<sup>2</sup> of Terrehaute and others

\*Spring-  
field

Saturday June 8, 1861 Fine, warm summer day. Attending Court in A. M. Capt Emmett Mc Donald who was taken in Camp Jackson at St Louis, and who looks like a great loafer, was brot before Judge Treat on *habeas Corpus*, and discharged. He was permitted to address the Court, claiming to be a member of the bar. From his talk I should take him to be a shallow pated silly fellow. His object seemed to be to glorify himself, and abuse Genl<sup>s</sup> Harney and Lyon both of whom he accused of perjury [*Leaf out of original.*]

Quincy

\*Friday June 14<sup>3</sup> Very warm day, but fine breeze. At work in office

Saturday June 15 Very warm day. At work in office—Threatened rain at night, but none came.

Sunday June 16. Cool, bright, beautiful day. At Church A M. Mr Barstow preached. After tea called to Jo G Rowland now at home from Cairo—Gilpin & his wife, two Mrs Stanleys,

<sup>1</sup>Orlando B. Ficklin, 1808-1886. Represented Wabash and Coles counties in Illinois General Assembly, 1834, 1838, 1842. Congressman in 28th, 29th, 30th, 32d congresses, member of the Constitutional Convention, 1862. First a Whig and after 1842 a Democrat.

<sup>2</sup>Daniel W. Voorhees of Terre Haute, Indiana. Democratic congressman, 1861-1867, 1869-1873; United States senator, 1877-1897.

<sup>3</sup>It was on June 12, 1861, that Governor Yates appointed Browning United States senator, this being a temporary appointment during the recess of the legislature to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Stephen A. Douglas. The leaves in the diary June 9-13 are missing. Browning's presence was not demanded in Washington, since Congress did not assemble until July 4, which was the date of the special session called by President Lincoln. In the latter half of the month of June Browning's time seems to have been occupied with legal business and the labor of putting his affairs in order preparatory to leaving for Washington. The first entry which contains any suggestion of the senatorship is to be found under date of June 27, when he mentions his departure for the national capital. Though the *Chicago Tribune* would have preferred the appointment of a Democrat holding the views of Senator Douglas, Browning's selection seems to have met with general approval. In Springfield both the *Illinois State Register* (Democratic) and the *Illinois State Journal* (Republican) expressed satisfaction at the appointment. The favorable views of various papers are quoted in *Illinois Weekly State Journal*, June 19, 1861.

Miss O'Bannon and myself went to Baptist Church at night, and heard Mr Gallagher—I walked home with Mrs Stanley's

Quincy

Monday June 17. 1861 Cool, lovely day. At work in office

Tuesday June 18. Fine day. Quite warm At work in office Attended party at night at Mr Palmers in company with Miss O'Bannon

Wednesday June 19. Very warm day. At work in office

Thursday June 20 Warmest day of the season. At work in office

Friday June 21 Very warm. At work in office At night went with Miss O'Bannon & Miss Carrie Moore to military festival at City Hall

\*Quincy

Saturday June 22, 1861 Fine day, and not so hot as yesterday At work in office

Sunday June 23 Very pleasant day. At Church A M & evening Mr Barstow preached

Monday June 24 Very warm day. At work in office Dr Warren arrived to day on visit Bushnell started to Springfield in P. M. to attend U S Court. Mrs B & I rode out to Cox's after tea

Quincy

Tuesday June 25, 1861 Very warm & dry. At work in office \*Very fine rain at night.

Wednesday June 26. One of the loveliest of days. In A. M. Mrs B and I called at Sam Holmes' Asbury's and at Col Palmers Camp Col Palmer & Dr Warren with us to tea Palmer wishes the war prosecuted with the utmost vigor till rebellion is every where subdued. He would prefer that the Brigadiers to command volunteers should be taken from the army, but if civilians are to be appointed he wants an appointment himself

\*Quincy

Thursday June 27, 1861 Raining heavily this morning, with thunder and lightning and continued all the forenoon \*Mrs Warren & Maggie arrived this morning, and I left them and the Dr at my house. Jake Caldwell and his wife also came At 6½ P. M. I took the cars for Chicago, on my way to Washington. At Galesburg went to bed in a sleeping car. Miss Emma Hackney of Aurora along, on her way home from school at Jacksonville

Chicago Friday June 28, 1861 Reached Chicago at 9½ A. M. and stopped at Briggs House room No: 28. In forenoon went over to Mr Berteaus to see Emma Found Beckwith & Larned on my return & had a long talk with them. Both for the most vigorous measures to put down the rebellion. Beckwith dined with me. After he left I took a nap, and then went on the North side to Mr Rumseys to tea Emma remains all night with their little girls who are going home with her tomorrow

Chicago Saturday June 29. 1861 At 9 A. M. put Emma on board the cars for Quincy, in company with Mr Rumsey's two little girls who went home with her on a visit Went to Court room at the Custom House & saw Mr Bradley, the clerk on business—Judge Norton, Wentworth, Fitch and others called to see me. In P. M. went to Mr Berteaus and settled Emma's bill Then to Beckwiths to dinner and dined with them, Miss Smith, and Mrs Phillips. After dinner all took a ride in Michigan Avenue, and then attended a promenade Concert at Bryants Hall. I returned to the hotel at 10 O'clock at night The day has been pleasant and the night is very calm and beautiful

\*Chicago Sunday June 30. 1861 Fine day. At North Presbyterian Church in the morning. A Mr Neal preached. In afternoon wrote to Mrs Browning. Went with Roundtree to E Peck's to dinner at 5 P. M. Returned and attended Dr Pattersons Church at night. Rained whilst there—Went from Church with Wentworth to his room, and got back to hotel at 10. Franked my letter to Mrs Browning being the first time I have used the privilege †July, August & September 1861, are written in another little book†<sup>1</sup>

Chicago \*Monday July 1. 1861 Unusually cold for this time of year. Wore a woollen coat with duster over that, and over coat over all. At 7 A. M. started for Washington via Fort Wayne & Pittsburg Road. Dined at Fort Wayne, where Richardson and McClernand of our delegation, and five or six of the Ky delegation including Messrs C. A. Wickliffe, Grider, Harding, Mallory & Jackson joined us. Took supper at Crestline, and reached

<sup>1</sup>See note to entry for January 1, 1861, *post* 446.

Pittsburg about 11 O'clock where a sleeping car was attached, and I went to bed

\*Wash-  
ington

Tuesday July 2. 1861 Very cold last night—When I woke up this morning we were at Huntington Pa: Breakfasted at Harrisburg, and then took the road to Baltimore. There we again changed cars and reached Washington at 4½ p. m. being just 33½ hours from Chicago, having lost 1½ hours in Baltimore I stopped at National Hotel and am in room 230 in the top of the house All the bridges through Maryland guarded by troops, and many encamped in Baltimore and between there and Washington

\*Wash-  
ington

Wednesday July 3, 1861 Fine day. After breakfast Judge Trumbull called, and I went with him to his room to talk over the order of proceedings in regard to the announcement of the death of Senator Douglas. We examined precedents and found that the announcement was always made by the surviving colleague, and that the successor, tho' present had taken no part in the ceremonies, Notwithstanding this I will probably say something on the occasion I then went to Mrs Carters on capitol Hill to make arrangements for boarding Rooms had already been engaged there for me Thence I went to the Senate Chamber to select a seat, and sat there and wrote to Mrs Browning In the p. m. removed to Mrs Carters—My room occupied by Capt Cole & wife of New York who will remain but a few days, and I have taken another room for the time being Between 8 & 9 at night Capt Mann of Chicago called, to get me to go with him to the President When we got there his Secretary told me he was engaged in reviewing his message, and I would not send in my name, but went down to pay my respects to Mrs Lincoln In a very few minutes the secretary came down and said the President had heard my voice and wished to see me. I went to his room, and as he had just finished his message, he said he wished to read it to me, and did so. It is a most admirable history of our present difficulties, and a conclusive and unanswerable argument against the abominable heresy of secession. It is an able state paper and will fully meet the expectations of the Country. I remained a while in conversation with him when the reading

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington



was concluded. He told me that the very first thing placed in his hands after his inauguration was a letter from Majr Anderson announcing the impossibility of defending or relieving Sumter. That he called the Cabinet together, and consulted Genl. Scott<sup>1</sup>—that Scott concurred with Anderson, and the cabinet, with the exception of himself and P M Genl. Blair<sup>2</sup> were for evacuating the Fort, and that all the troubles and anxieties of his life had not equalled those which intervened between this time and the fall of Sumter. He himself conceived the idea, and proposed sending supplies, without an attempt to reinforce giving notice of the fact to Gov Pickins of S. C. The plan succeeded. They attacked Sumter—it fell, and thus, did more service than it otherwise could

Thursday July 4, 1861 At 12 m. precisely the Senate was called to order, Senator Trumbull presented my credentials and I was sworn in—Some little preliminary business was done, and we adjourned till tomorrow The House organized by electing Grow<sup>3</sup> of Penn: Speaker, and Etheridge of Tenn: Clerk.<sup>4</sup> I was present and heard Grow's inaugural. It was a pretty thing, but on the Star spangled banner order. †Wrote to Mrs Browning.†

Friday, July 5, 1861 Fine day. Elected George T Brown of Illinois Sergeant at arms. Mr Hale,<sup>5</sup> Mr Pearce of Maryland<sup>6</sup> and myself appointed Committee to wait on President and inform him the houses were organized and ready to proceed to business.

<sup>1</sup>General Winfield Scott, conspicuous for his long and distinguished military record, which included service in the War of 1812, Indian wars and the Mexican War, was head of the United States Army in 1861 at the age of seventy-five, and the most prominent soldier in the country.

<sup>2</sup>Montgomery Blair, 1813-1883, brother of General Francis P. Blair, Jr., of Missouri. Prominent Republican of Maryland; 1857 acted as counsel for the plaintiff in the Dred Scott case; postmaster general under Lincoln.

<sup>3</sup>Galusha Aaron Grow. Speaker of the House of Representatives from July, 1861, to March, 1863.

<sup>4</sup>Emerson Etheridge, born in 1819. Congressman from Tennessee, 1853-1857, 1859-1861. Remaining loyal on the secession of Tennessee, he served as clerk, 1861-1863.

<sup>5</sup>Senator from New Hampshire. See *ante*, 260 n. 1.

<sup>6</sup>James A. Pearce, 1805-1862; congressman, 1835-1839, 1841-1843; senator, 1843 until his death.

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

\*Wash-  
ington



He replied that he would forthwith Communicate in writing. At 2 P. M. Mr Nicolay<sup>1</sup> his private Secretary appeared with the ~~Elected Mr Barrett assistant door keeper~~ message which was read by Mr Hickey our clerk

\*Wash-  
ington Saturday July 6, 1861 Immediately after breakfast I took a carriage and went to the Presidents, and had an interview of about an hour with him. Mr Secretary Seward came in whilst I was there at a moment when the President was out of the room. We introduced ourselves and had a very pleasant chat. Secretary Smith<sup>2</sup> also came in and I was introduced to him by the President I called then to see Atto Genl Bates, but he was not in. I got back to the Capitol just in time for the meeting of the Senate at 12 O'clock. Committees were appointed. I am on Foreign Relations and Territories We elected Mr Bassett assistant door keeper. Wrote to Mrs Browning

Washington Sunday July 7. Very warm day. Went with Voris of Indiana to the Hall of House and heard the Chaplain Rev Mr Stockton preach—Fine sermon At night went to Mr Sunderlands<sup>3</sup> Church where there was a Union meeting in reference to the reading for the army and short addresses by several persons

\*Wash-  
ington Monday July 8, 1861 A very warm day. At 8 A. M. Mr Larned called with a carriage, and I went with them to call on the Secretary of War, in regard to Paymastership for Larned. I took the occasion to present the claims of Mr Ihrle We went thence to the Presidents, only to pay respects, and then to the capitol. Just after the Senate adjourned between 1 & 2 O'clock P. M. Mr Nicolay the Presidents private Secretary called & said the President wished to see me. I went up at 3 P. M. found him alone and remained with him till 5½. We had a great deal of

Wash-  
ington

<sup>1</sup>John George Nicolay, 1832-1901. Born in Bavaria, came to the United States, 1838. Editor of *Pike County Free Press*, at Pittsfield, Illinois; 1857 became assistant secretary of state under O. M. Hatch. He acted as Lincoln's private secretary throughout his election campaign and presidency. Served as United States consul at Paris, 1865-1869; marshal of the United States Supreme Court, 1872-1887. Joint author with John Hay of *Abraham Lincoln: A History*, and other works.

<sup>2</sup>Caleb B. Smith of Indiana, Lincoln's first secretary of the interior.

<sup>3</sup>Byron Sunderland was chaplain of the Senate at the time of the Civil War, and pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Washington.

conversations upon all matters relating to our present troubles. He is for the most vigorous and active measures to bring the war to a speedy close, and totally opposed to any compromise of any kind or character. We also discussed the negro question, and agreed upon this as upon other things that the government neither should, nor would send back to bondage such as came to our armies, but that we could not have them in camp, and that they must take care of themselves till the war is over, and then, colonize &c. He also expressed me a wish that Forney<sup>1</sup> should be elected Secretary of the Senate. Said he had rendered very important services to the administration, acting in good faith with it, and he doubted whether the support of Pennsylvania could be secured without him—He also stated to me the reason of Emory's<sup>2</sup> restoration to the army—but added that he had no personal desire in regard to his confirmation. At night I went to Judge Trumbull's rooms and met Koerner, Col Hecker, Washburn<sup>3</sup> & others to talk over matters connected with Illinois troops

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday July 9. 1861 Before I got my breakfast a carriage was at the door with Mr. <sup>Wilder of Kansas</sup> Capt. Butterfield wishing me to go with him to the Presidents—Went—and got back just in time for Senate—

Douglas's death announced by Trumbull—Speeches made by McDougall, Collamer, Nesmith, myself and Anthoney—<sup>4</sup> This

<sup>1</sup>John W. Forney, 1817-1881. Pennsylvania journalist, clerk of the House of Representatives, 1851-1855, editing the *Washington Union* at the same time. Opposed the administration on the Lecompton Constitution and supported the Republicans during the war, serving as secretary of the Senate till 1868.

<sup>2</sup>William H. Emory, 1811-1887. Appointed lieutenant colonel of cavalry May 24, 1861. He rose to the rank of major general of volunteers, commanding the 19th Corps.

<sup>3</sup>Elihu B. Washburne, 1816-1887. Resident of Galena, Illinois; congressman from 1853 to 1869; appointed secretary of state, 1869, but resigned in a few days to become minister to France, where he remained during the Franco-Prussian War.

<sup>4</sup>Of those who eulogized Douglas, James W. Nesmith was senator from Oregon, James A. McDougall senator from California (see *post*, 493, n. 2), Henry B. Anthony, senator from Rhode Island, and Jacob Collamer, senator from Vermont.

Wash-  
ington

was my first appearance in the Senate. I spoke about a half hour, and have been very highly complimented by Senators<sup>1</sup> Rained heavily just at night

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday July 10, 1861 I took some medicine last night, and have been under its influence all day tho in attendance upon the Senate. Rained about night

Wash-  
ington

Thursday July 11. Before I was dressed Mr Wilder<sup>2</sup> of Kansas, and Mr McDowell of Kansas were at the door with a carriage for me to go to the Presidents on affairs connected with the Indian Agency in Kansas. At Nickolays room I met Genl. Fremont<sup>3</sup> for the first time, and had a talk with him about Illinois troops, and their field of operations. Saw the President but a few minutes. He had to go to Genl Scotts office to see him, and I left after a very little conversation. Returned to Capitol and attended Senatorial caucus where Trumbull was trying to press through a resolution directing the immediate movement of the troops, and the occupation of Richmond before the 20<sup>th</sup> July—

capture of Washington

It is both absurd and dangerous, and I hope will be defeated. In Senate we expelled the members from the Seceded States. Rained towards night

\*Wash-  
ington

Friday July 12. 1861 Cool, pleasant day. Busy in the Senate. In session till nearly 5 P. M. About 6 P. M. rode out with Sheffield<sup>4</sup> to the encampment of the Rhode Island volunteers, consist-

<sup>1</sup>In this eulogy of Douglas, Browning dwelt upon Douglas' heroism in rending asunder personal ties "when longer fraternity with them was disloyalty to the Government," and declared that "Henceforth his name is indissolubly connected with his country's history." *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 1 session, 29-31.

<sup>2</sup>Perhaps A. Carter Wilder, 1828-1875; member of the House of Representatives from Kansas, 1863-1865; delegate to the Republican national conventions of 1860 and 1864.

<sup>3</sup>John C. Frémont, 1813-1890. Western explorer; commander of California volunteers during the Mexican War; senator from California; Republican candidate for the presidency in 1856; United States major general during the Civil War; engaged in a sharp conflict with President Lincoln while in command of the Western Military District at St. Louis in 1861; sought the presidential nomination in rivalry with Lincoln in 1864, being actually nominated by a faction of the Republican party at Cleveland but later withdrawing from the contest.

<sup>4</sup>William P. Sheffield, 1820-1907; representative from Rhode Island, 1861-1863; senator, 1884-1885.

ing of two Regiments, and some batteries of flying artillery. I have never seen troops to surpass in appearance, or perfection of discipline, or accuracy of drill. One Regt is under Command of Col Burnside,<sup>1</sup> a very gallant, soldierly looking man—the other under Slocum—the whole being apparently under the direction of Gov Sprague<sup>2</sup> of R. I. who is with them in Camp. He is a small spare, young man apparently under 30 yrs of age, who wears glasses, and stoops in the shoulders, but pleasant and amiable in appearance and manner, and modest and undemonstrative. Sec Cameron<sup>3</sup> was on the ground. Also met Mr Ashmun of Boston there. Quite a company out from Washington as it was a dress parade

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Saturday June 13, 1861 In caucus this morning Sumner brot up the question of the recall of Harvey<sup>4</sup> Minister to Portugal and read the telegraphic despatches from him to McGraff of Charleston giving intelligence of what was going on in Washington. Some were dated before and some after his appointment the last one stating that the administration had determined to send supplies to Sumter, and support the attempt to provision by a force under Commodore Stringham<sup>5</sup> Some of the Senators were for bringing the matter before the Senate—others for Re-

Wash-  
ington

<sup>1</sup>Major General Ambrose E. Burnside of Rhode Island, 1824-1881; succeeded McClellan in command of the Army of the Potomac in November, 1862; superseded by Hooker after the disastrous battle of Fredericksburg; later commanded the Department of the Ohio, with headquarters at Cincinnati.

<sup>2</sup>William Sprague. Governor of Rhode Island from 1860 to 1863; United States senator, 1863-1875.

<sup>3</sup>Simon Cameron, 1799-1889. Lincoln's first secretary of war; resigned in 1862; United States minister to Russia; senator from Pennsylvania both before and after the war.

<sup>4</sup>James E. Harvey explained that he had merely communicated with persons in Charleston, South Carolina, in an effort to avert a collision at Sumter. *New York Tribune*, August 5, 1861. Chadwick, *Causes of the Civil War*, 325, assumes Harvey's guilt.

<sup>5</sup>Silas Horton Stringham, 1798-1876. In active service in the navy, 1809-1861. Called to Washington on the outbreak of the war to advise regarding war preparations, he strongly urged the relief of Fort Sumter. He commanded the North Atlantic fleet, but after the expedition to Hatteras declined further active service because of age; retired as commander, and served as commandant of the Boston Navy Yard, 1862-1865; promoted to rear admiral on the retired list July, 1862.



publican Senators going in mass and demanding his recall. I was for posponing the subject for the present to get an opportunity to see the President as I strongly suspected the despatches were sent with the knowledge and approbation of Sec: Seward; but it was not postponed. A resolution passed appointing a Committee, Sumner, Foote and Doolittle to wait upon the President, and in the name of the Republicans to request his recall. For several successive days this week Trumbull tried to get permission to introduce into the Senate a resolution requiring the army to move, and to occupy Richmond before the 20<sup>th</sup> July; The thing was both absurd and dangerous—He did not get it through—was postponed from time to time, and I suppose has abandoned it. At night I went to the Presidents and had a long talk with him and Mr Seward Sec: of State about Harvey and Emory. They do not want Harvey recalled, and do want Emory's nomination as a Col in the army confirmed.

Sunday June 14, 1861 Quite a cool day. Cloth clothes necessary. At Dr Sunderlands Church morning and evening. In the evening Flood called and went with me. After my return from Church Hale came into my room, and we had a long talk about a Sec: for the Senate as one is to be agreed upon in caucus tomorrow morning. He is very much opposed to Forney, and wishes Mr Hickey elected. The President thinks Forney altogether a suitable man and is anxious for his election.

Monday July 15 1861 In caucus this morning the committee appointed to wait on the President in relation to the recall of Harvey reported that the President and Sec of State explained to them about the despatches and expressed the opinion that Harvey was loyal. This did not prove satisfactory and a resolution was passed to request the President to recall him. Mr Collamer, Mr Cowan and I voted against it—none others to my knowledge. I did so on the ground that it was not our business, & we were meddling where we had no right to. That the responsibility was on the President, and he ought to exercise his own judgment. We nominated Forney for Secretary of the Senate I voting for him on the recommendation of the President & others, knowing nothing about him myself. Never having



even seen him to know him. We afterwards elected him in the Senate. I then wrote a note to the President to try and get him to give Sam Sympson a place

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday July 16, 1861 After breakfast went with Sam Simpson to the Treasury department to try and get him a Clerkship—Sec Chase<sup>1</sup> substantial promised me one. I also called attention to the application of Henry Lawrence. In Senate till between 4 & 5 P. M. At 7 P. M. went to Mr Sec Swards to dinner The party consisted of the Minister from Portugal—An officer of the army whose name I have forgotten—a Mr Conger of New York, Mr Seward, Mr Fred Seward<sup>2</sup> & wife and myself. The party was very pleasant, that is to me, as Seward & myself did most of the talking Whilst at dinner Mr & Mrs Barnes<sup>3</sup> of Albany came, she being a daughter of Thurlow Weed, and a very sprightly woman. Between 9 & 10 we all went to the levee at the Presidents. I accompanying Mrs Seward. Here I saw Genl Scott for the first time, but was not introduced to him About 11 went home with Mrs Seward and got back to my room before midnight

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday July 17. 1861 Immediately after breakfast went to the war department with Jno Wilson of Chicago to get a German Regt of Chicago accepted. When I returned to my boarding house found Mrs Seward had been there and left me a beautiful bouquet—In Senate till 5 P. M. At 8½ went to the Presidents at his request with the Kansas men to settle some question relating to a treaty and contract with the Delaware Indians, and the construction of a Rail Road Got home at 11½

Wash-  
ington

Thursday July 18 1861 Immediately after breakfast went with Benham to war department to see about contract for cloth-

<sup>1</sup>Salmon P. Chase, 1808-1873. United States senator from Ohio, 1849-1855; governor of Ohio, 1855-1859; elected to Senate again in 1860, but resigned to become secretary of the treasury March 4, 1861; resigned July 1, 1864, being succeeded by William P. Fessenden; appointed chief justice of the United States Supreme Court December 6, 1864.

<sup>2</sup>Frederick W. Seward, born 1830, was the second son of William H. Seward, serving under him as assistant secretary of state, 1861-1869. Published the *Autobiography of William H. Seward* (1877).

<sup>3</sup>William Barnes of Albany, New York. Son-in-law of Thurlow Weed, and father of Thurlow Weed Barnes, publisher.

ing. Called on Atto Genl. Bates on my way back. In Senate until near 6 P. M. A debate sprung up to day on an amendment offered to a bill by Powell of Ky. declaring substantially that the war should not result in the subjugation of a state, or the abolition of slavery.<sup>1</sup> On the Republican side the debate was wholly unpremeditated. I took part in it, making my debut in the Senate in a speech of about half an hour. Was warmly congratulated and highly complimented by Hale, Sumner, Wilson,<sup>2</sup> Wade<sup>3</sup>

Wash-  
ington

by Foote & others Sumner said he had never heard a better first speech in the Senate—Hale said "tell your wife I like it better than any speech I ever heard Douglass make, Even Breckenridge said it was the most compact, consecutive, logical argument he ever heard combined with so much fervor

\*Wash-  
ington

Friday, July 19. 1861 Bayard of Delaware addressed the Senate to day in opposition to the resolutions endorsing the Administration At night I went with Kellogg & George Phelps to the Presidents to try and get a place for George and purser-ship in the Navy for Josiah Gale. Found a number of gentleman at the Presidents room discussing war matters, among them Richardson & Colfax who had been out to Fairfax Court House from which we drove the enemy to day

<sup>1</sup>Lazarus W. Powell, 1812-1867; governor of Kentucky, 1851-1855; United States senator, 1859-1865.

Powell's amendment prohibited the employment of the nation's forces for the purpose of "subjecting or holding as a conquered province any sovereign State . . . or . . . abolishing or interfering with African slavery in any of the States." Browning opposed the amendment on the ground that slavery was in large part responsible for the war and that, while the present purpose was not to abolish slavery in the states, yet if the issue should be forced between the Government on the one side and slavery on the other, he was for the government. In the course of his remarks Browning digressed for the purpose of defending the President against assaults that had been directed against certain of his acts, particularly the suspension of the habeas corpus privilege. *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 1 session, 187-189. The *New York Tribune* commented favorably on this speech and referred to Browning as "one of those . . . cautious . . . conservatives, of ripe years and considerate speech" whose words might "well be heeded." July 19, 1861.

<sup>2</sup>Henry Wilson, 1812-1875. United States senator from Massachusetts, 1855-1873; raised and for a time commanded the 22d Massachusetts Volunteers; elected vice president, 1872; died in the Capitol.

<sup>3</sup>Ben Wade, 1800-1878. United States senator from Ohio, 1857-1869.

Wash-  
ington

Saturday July 20, 1861 Latham<sup>1</sup> addressed the Senate on the resolutions—After tea I went to Gov Swards—Met there the French Minister<sup>2</sup> and his wife—Palmer of topographical Engineers and his wife—Thurlow Weed and his daughter, and others. Passed a pleasant evening. The night was very delightful—the moon full, and the sky clear. I remained till 10 O'clock and then walked back to my lodgings at Mrs Carters on Capitol Hill

\*Wash-  
ington

Sunday July 21 1861 Hale and I went to Hall of the House, and heard Dr Sunderland, Chaplain of the Senate, preach a most excellent sermon on the times. A great fight is going on to day at Manassas Junction, but with what results we dont yet know; but believe them to be engaged along the entire line. Some of the gentlemen said at the dinner table they had heard the cannonading, and after dinner Hale and I went over to the capitol, and tried it but could hear nothing. At supper the news was that there had been very heavy losses, but that our army had forced the batteries at Bulls run and driven the enemy back upon Manassas several miles distant, but we have had no certain and reliable account. Bulls run is said to furnish the only water in the neighbourhood, and if they are cut off from that it is thought they cannot maintain their position at Manassas long.

Wash-  
ington

At night went to Dr Sunderland's Church with Miss Lizzie Price

Wash-  
ington

Monday July 22, 1861 Has rained steadily all day, and still raining at 10 O'clock at night. Great excitement in the city this morning, and many rumors of the disasters at Bull run yesterday. It was a hard fought field with heavy losses on both sides, but to what extent is not yet ascertained. Nor is it certainly known

<sup>1</sup>Milton S. Latham was a senator from California. In speaking of "the resolutions," Browning refers to a measure to ratify and confirm certain acts of the President performed when no congress was in session for the purpose of suppressing the rebellion, such as the call for militia, the proclamations of blockade, the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, and the increase of the United States Army beyond the number then authorized by law. *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 1 session, 40.

<sup>2</sup>The French minister to the United States at this time was Henri Mercier.

how the disaster occurred. The fight began at 4 A. M. and continued till 5 P. M. when the enemy had been driven back, and we were in possession of the field. The fight was regarded as over when, in some unaccountable manner, our troops were seized with a panic, and fled. They were not pursued. The enemy was too badly beaten, too much cut to pieces to pursue. Indeed it is not probable they suspected the field was abandoned. How it happened no body seems to know. Some say that the enemy was reinforced by 25000 after our men were exhausted with long exertion, but our Genl. McDowell,<sup>1</sup> who commanded, asserts that the reinforcement had been in the field some time, and that he had beaten them back after they joined; and this seems probable from the fact that no pursuit was made. Gen Scott was not ready, and did not wish to fight, but the public was clamoring for an onward movement, and it is understood that the cabinet directed it, and he yielded. His head quarters are here in the City, and he has not been across the River. He is not able to go, but remains here and directs operations. Had he been permitted to conduct them according to his own judgment this would not have happened. Many of troops, especially the three months men whose term of service is about expiring continued their flight till they reached this City, and are here to day. The others stopped at their former encampments—most of them on the other side of the River. At 5 P. M. I went to the Presidents and remained till 7. and got these details from him Hon Thomas Ewing<sup>2</sup> of Ohio came here to board to day. I had never met him before.

<sup>1</sup>General Irvin McDowell, 1818-1885. West Point graduate with Mexican War experience; commanded Union forces at the disastrous battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861. John Bigelow, who visited McDowell's camp shortly before the battle, described his sense of depression under the weight of his responsibility and said, "I pitied him as I had never pitied any man in my life before." Bigelow, *Retrospections of an Active Life*, 1:360.

<sup>2</sup>Thomas Ewing, of Ohio, 1789-1871. United States senator, 1831-1837; secretary of the treasury under President William Henry Harrison; secretary of the interior under President Taylor. Browning and Ewing were often together, and in 1863 and 1864 they shared the same house at Washington. Gideon Welles characterized Ewing (perhaps unjustly) as an "old party hack" who was "selling his personal influence" with President Lincoln. *Diary of Gideon Welles*, 2: 203.



\*Wash-  
ington

Tuesday July 23, 1861 Immediately after breakfast went with Dr Johns to War Department, and got Pughs<sup>1</sup> Decatur Regt accepted. Also procured an order from Secy of War to Genl. Hurlburt<sup>2</sup> to make connection of Quincy and Palmyra Rail Road with Hannibal & St Jo Rail R at Palmyra which I enclosed to Cha<sup>s</sup> A Savage at Quincy Had long talk with Col Cullum about Sundays fight He says our loss less than a thousand—That Scott was not ready to fight, and remonstrated against it, but was overruled

\*Wash-  
ington

Wednesday July 24, 1861 After breakfast went with Mr Mathews Navy  
Geo T. Ihrie to the Presidents and the War department to try and brother Lieut of Marines  
get his appointed Paymaster The went to the Post Office department about the offices at Durham, Browning, Hillsborough and Nokomis The to the Senate where we were in session till nearly night Then dinner, a shave and a walk, and work till nearly midnight

Wash-  
ington

Thursday July 25, 1861 After breakfast went with Geo P Ihrie to the Prests and War Department to try and have him appointed Pay Master in the Army—and with Charles Everett to get a Regiment accepted which he is raising in this City. I also got a positive promise from the President, Secretary of War and Adjutant Genl. that B M Prentiss should be appointed Brigadier, of which the Secretary authorized me to inform him by telegraph Then back to the Senate. A Resolution offered by Senator Johnson<sup>3</sup> of Tennessee came up to day for Considera-

Wash-  
ington

<sup>1</sup>Isaac C. Pugh of Macon County, Illinois, 1805-1874. Served in Black Hawk, Mexican, and Civil wars; attained the rank of brigadier general in 1864; took part in the battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh; wounded in the operations around Vicksburg.

<sup>2</sup>Stephen Augustus Hurlbut, 1815-1882. Born in Charleston, S. C. Served in the Florida War. Came to Illinois, 1845. Served in Constitutional Convention of 1847 as a Whig; Republican after 1856; elected to general assemblies of 1859, 1861, 1867; brigadier general of volunteers, May 27, 1861, major general, September, 1862. Fought at Shiloh and commanded Department of the Gulf. Minister to Colombia, 1869-1872, to Peru, 1881-1882. Representative in 43d and 44th congresses.

<sup>3</sup>This is the first mention of Andrew Johnson, destined to succeed Lincoln in the presidency. He had entered the United States Senate in 1857 and remained there after the secession of Tennessee until Lincoln in March, 1862, appointed him military governor of the state.



tion, when Breckenridge made another assault upon the Administration and I replied to him.<sup>1</sup> The debate was unexpected, and altogether off hand on my part, but I was very much complimented by Senators, and Johnson thanked me over and over again for it. At night spent an hour in at Mr Price's

Wash-  
ngton

Friday July 26, 1861 After breakfast went with Hollowbush and E M Davis to Presidents and war Dept: and with Genl. Rollins of Missouri, to introduce him to the President. Nothing new has transpired to day. At night met Genl. Rollins of Mo: and his son James at the Presidents for the purpose of presenting them to Mrs Lincoln & Mrs Grimsley which I did—We made a call there of an hour or more. Met there a Mr Beecher of New York, quite an agreeable gentleman—a cousin of Henry Ward Beecher

Wash-  
ngton

Saturday July 27, 1861 Went this morning to the Treasury Department with young Mr Curtiss In Senate Johnson of Tenn: made a fine, manly speech in reply to Breckenridge, Bayard &c We rejected the nomination of Carrington for Atto of the District on the statements of Senators Willson and Bingham<sup>2</sup> that several years ago a negro man who, by law, was entitled to his freedom had been kidnapped here and taken to Alexandria—that a purse was raised by contribution, and paid to Carrington to assert his right to freedom, and save him from slavery, and that he pocketed the money, refused to do anything for the negro, and allowed him to be taken to New Orleans and sold into bondage. At night went to Trumbulls rooms to meet the Illinois delegation and agree upon Brig: Genl for our State. Pope & Hurlbut being already appointed we thought we would be entitled

Wash-  
ngton

<sup>1</sup>The speech which Browning delivered in the Senate on this occasion related to the object of the war, and the particular matter which brought him to his feet seems to have been the denunciation of the President which various senators had indulged in. Browning spoke vigorously in the President's defense. *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 1 session, 263-265.

<sup>2</sup>Kinsley S. Bingham, 1808-1861. Elected senator from Michigan, 1859.

to seven more. I was for Prentiss, McClelland, Payne, Richardson, Palmer, Grant and Stokes<sup>1</sup>

Wash-  
ington

Sunday July 28, 1861 Senators Hale, Clark<sup>2</sup> & myself went this morning to breakfast with Dr Nichols<sup>3</sup> at the insane Asylum across the East branch, about three miles from the City. The buildings are 620 feet long and most admirably arranged—the most perfect of any establishment I have ever seen. Among other conveniences is a Rail Road in the basement for distributing the cooked provisions from the kitchen to the different wards of the Asylum. On this road is a car of a new construction invented Dr Nichols informed me, by a man who is, was at the time, and still is in the lunatic Asylum at Philadelphia. The peculiarity of the car is the adjustment of its axis to the radius of a circle so as to pass a curve without any more friction than is encountered on a straight road. As soon as it strikes a curve it adjusts its wheels by contracting them on one side and expanding on the other in such manner as to preserve the equilibrium of pressure on the rail on each side, and at the same time prevent any increase of friction. It is ingenious, probably valuable. Got back to the City at 10 O'clock and I went to Dr Gurleys Church. President and his wife there, and upon their invitation I went home with them to dinner. I had a great deal of con-

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

<sup>1</sup>This conference of the Illinois congressional delegation concerning the choice of brigadier generals indicates the large importance of state action in the organization of the United States volunteer forces. The colonels of the United States Volunteers were appointed by the state governor, and while the generals were appointed by the President, the state congressional delegation exercised a certain power of nomination. The Illinois brigadier generals appointed in the year 1861 were Ulysses S. Grant, Stephen A. Hurlbut, Benjamin M. Prentiss, John A. McClelland, Eleazer Paine, William A. Richardson, John M. Schofield, and John M. Palmer. The total number of brigadier generals in the United States service from Illinois appointed during the Civil War was fifty-three, nine of whom attained the rank of major general, and one, Grant, that of general, while one hundred twenty-seven were given the brevet rank of brigadier generals, two of whom were promoted to brigadier general. There were nine major generals and fifty-four brevet major generals from Illinois. *Report of the Adjutant General of Illinois 1861-1866* (Springfield, 1900), 1: 176 ff.

<sup>2</sup>John Parker Hale (see *ante*, 260 n. 1) and Daniel Clark, senators from New Hampshire.

<sup>3</sup>Charles Henry Nichols, born in Maine in 1820. A specialist in the care of the insane and the founder of the asylum in question in 1852.



Wash-  
ington
Wash-  
ington
Wash-  
ington
Wash-  
ington
 versation with the present, being left alone for an hour or two before dinner. He seemed very melancholy; admitted he was so, but said he knew of no special cause for it. I asked him if we were in any danger of becoming involved in difficulties with foreign powers during our present troubles. He admitted that there was—That in his opinion they were determined to have the cotton crop as soon as it matured—that our coast was so extensive that we could not make the blockade of all the Ports effectual—and that England was now assuming the ground that a nation had no right, whilst a portion of its citizens were in revolt to close its port or any of them against foreign Nations—that we had passed a law at this session of Congress, authorizing him, in his discretion, to close our ports, but if he asserted the right of closing such as we could not blockade, he had no doubt it would result in foreign war, and that under the circumstances we had better increase the navy as fast as we could and blockade such ports as our force would enable us to, and say nothing about the rest. In the course of our conversation I remarked upon the corrupting nature of treason, and how it debased men and fitted them for the perpetration of every other crime, and in illustration of the truth of the remark he told me that a letter had just been received from our Consul at Havanna stating in the spring a young man came to him named W<sup>m</sup> Preston Johnson,<sup>1</sup> whose father was a Col in the U. S. Army commanding on the Pacific Coast—That the young man brought a letter of introduction to him the Consul from Benjamin former Senator from Louisiana, now Atto Genl. of the rebel states in which Benjamin said that although they were now political enemies, there was no reason why they should not continue personal friends, and he therefore took the liberty of introducing Mr Johnson a young gentleman from the U. S. and would be obliged to him for any kindness he would show him. When he, the Consul, had read the letter

<sup>1</sup>William Preston Johnston, born 1831. A colonel in the Confederate army and later professor in Washington and Lee University and president of Tulane University. His father was Albert Sidney Johnston, 1803-1862, Confederate commander in the West until killed at Shiloh. In going over to the Confederacy he took no undue advantage of his position of command in the United States Army.

Johnson remarked that he was the Son of an officer, or related to an officer in the U. S. army—to which the Consul replied that that was a better introduction than Benjamins letter, as he wished to have no further Communication with him since he had proved false to the government. On making this remark he observed something peculiar in young Johnsons manner who very soon left, leaving, however, with the Consul a letter to his Johnsons father to be forwarded to him in California or Oregon. The Consuls suspicions were excited and he did not forward the letter but held it several weeks when he heard the young man had been arrested in New York for treason. He then opened the letter and found it was from the young man to his father giving him all the information he could in regard to the U. S. and the rebel states, and urging him to resign his Commission in our army, and take one from the rebels, as Davis and his government were very anxious upon the subject and would give him a high position. The President showed me the consuls letter to our Government, and the letter of the young man to his father which the consul had forwarded At 5½ P. M. Mrs Lincoln brought me home in her carriage

At 8 O'clock, sunday night as it was, I went to Trumbulls room to meet the members from our state, and agree upon Brigadier Generals for the volunteers. It was supposed we would be entitled to nine, and as Pope & Hurlbut were already appointed we agreed upon seven others viz: Grant, McClernand, Richardson, Payne, Prentiss, Palmer & Ross The Republicans all voted for Mc Clernand & Richardson whilst the Democrats withheld their votes from Prentiss & Palmer so as to give the two first a priority of appointment.

Monday July 29, 1861 Went in the morning with Mallory of Ky to the Sec: of State to ask consular appointment for Dudley Carle of Ky, but Mr Seward was engaged and could not see us. I then went to the Presidents and delivered him the list agreed upon for Brigadiers stating to him how they had been voted for and that I had voted for Wallace instead of Ross<sup>1</sup>—

<sup>1</sup>William H. L. Wallace and Leonard F. Ross. Illinois officers who became brigadier generals in 1862.

He told me he would appoint only three at present viz Prentiss, McClernand and Paine.<sup>1</sup>

Palmer

[*Passage deleted because of comment on Mrs. Lincoln.*]

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday July 30. 1861 Long, protracted session of the Senate and did but little

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday July 31. After breakfast went with Pope of Bloomington, Illinois, and Sheffield Member from Rhode Island to the Presidents I then went to the Treasury Department, and saw Mr Harington about Sympson and Lawrence, and then back to the Senate. In Executive session to day the nomination of Slade as Collector at Cairo was rejected. Trumbull read an item from St Louis Republican, and a letter from some person at Cairo charging that he permitted large quantities of Bellville beer to pass irrespective of the blockade, which caused his rejection At 6 P. M. went to Mr Secy Smiths to dinner. Senators Bright<sup>2</sup> of Indiana, Cox of Ohio, and myself, and Indiana members and visitors composed the company. [*Passage commenting on Mrs. Lincoln deleted.*]

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Augt 1, 1861 Immediately after breakfast went with Carr of Galesburg,<sup>3</sup> and E. M. Davis of Quincy, to the interior to ask for Clerkships \*In Senate till near 6 P. M. Then went at 8, after getting my dinner, with Mr Webb of this City to call on the President Met Sullivan there with Senator Trumbull, and Trumbull and I asked of the President to appoint him Sullivan a Pay Master in the army. He will if he can

Wash-  
ington

Friday Augt 2, 1861 Immediately after breakfast went with Webster to the Navy department, and then to the Treasury to see Harrington chief Clk about his treatment of Sam Sympson, and gave him my mind very freely. Then to the Senate. Had

<sup>1</sup>Concerning the brigadier generals from Illinois, see *ante*, 488.

<sup>2</sup>Regarding Senator Bright see *post*, 526 n. 2.

<sup>3</sup>Probably Clark E. Carr, 1836-1919; served on the staff of Governor Yates during the Civil War with rank of colonel; appointed postmaster of Galesburg by Lincoln in 1861, holding the office for twenty-four years. Publisher of the *Galesburg Republican*, 1869-1872; minister to Denmark, 1889-1893. President of the Illinois Historical Society, 1909-1913.

a long weary session. Was almost 6 P. M. when we adjourned  
Worked in my room with my letters till nearly midnight

Saturday Augt 3, 1861 After breakfast went to War Depart:  
and had Regiment accepted for Dr Bain<sup>1</sup> and K K Jones.<sup>2</sup> Then  
to the Senate which met at 11 A M and continued in Session  
till 6½ P M Prince Napoleon<sup>3</sup> was in the Senate Chamber  
to day. Head & face very much like *the* Napoleon At night at  
work in my room

Sunday August 4, 1861 Went to Dr Gurleys Church in the  
morning, and home with Mr. Bate's family to dinner. Met Mr  
Hodge of this City, Mr Kennedy of the census Bureau, and Mr  
Conant<sup>4</sup> an Artist of St Louis there, Mr Bates read me several  
letters he had written to other persons upon the state of the  
Country to show that he did not think compromise of our dif-  
ficulties possible because he did not think two separate govern-  
ments could exist together here, & because upon secession prin-  
ciples no government could exist at all

Monday Augt 5, 1861 At the Presidents with Genl. Lane,<sup>5</sup>  
about Delaware Treaty and at War Department to get Tillson  
appointed Capt & Briggs Lieutenant until the meeting of the

<sup>1</sup>Moses M. Bane of Quincy, Illinois. Colonel of the 50th Illinois  
Infantry Regiment.

<sup>2</sup>Kiler Kent Jones, founder of *The Gem of the Prairies*, out of which  
grew the *Chicago Tribune*; one time publisher of the *Prairie Farmer* and  
*Youth's Gazette*; for many years a resident of Quincy; died 1886.

<sup>3</sup>Napoleon Joseph Charles Paul Bonaparte, known as "Prince  
Napoleon," 1822-1891. Second son of Jerome Bonaparte; arrived at New  
York in July, 1861, and was elaborately entertained in various American  
cities.

<sup>4</sup>Alban Jasper Conant, born 1821 in Vermont. Painted portraits of  
Lincoln, Stanton and Bates.

<sup>5</sup>This was James Henry Lane of Kansas, whose seat in the Senate  
was contested by Frederick P. Stanton. In his remarks before the Senate  
on this date, Browning referred to his personal interview with Lincoln  
and cited some of the President's statements concerning the Kansas  
senatorship, which was one of the topics of conversation. A rather  
confidential relationship with the President is suggested in the following  
remark: "... he showed me an answer that he had prepared to the  
resolution [a request for information concerning the senatorial contest  
in Kansas], which he said was not satisfactory to himself; and he would,  
as soon as he could have time, go over to the Department, get possession  
of all the facts, and communicate them to this body." *Congressional  
Globe*, 37 Congress, 1 session, 439.

Wash-  
ington

\*Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington



Senate. Met at 11 A. M. and continued in session till 11½ P. M. I did not leave the Chamber till 10 A. M. when I went out for a little while & got a cup of tea and something to eat.<sup>1</sup> Had many, very many nominations before us, and some much Contested. Among others Col Emory's I made a speech for him and voted for him. He was confirmed. Several of the Senators were quite drunk to day, especially McDougall<sup>2</sup> of California & Saulsbury<sup>3</sup> of Delaware, and some scenes were enacted which ought not to occur in a body occupying so exalted & dignified a position as the Senate of the U. S. Our Legislation has been hasty, and in some instances crude and ill considered, and I am not as hopeful of the future as I was when I came here

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday Augt 6, 1861 Senate met at 9½ A. M. We had passed a joint resolution to adjourn at 12 M but extended it to 12½, and got through our business a little before that time and when the hour arrived adjourned *Sine die*\* \*Packing up in P. M. and getting ready to go home. At night called at Willard's to see Mrs Beckwith & Miss Smith

\*Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Augt 7. 1861 Very hot day. Went with Arnold,<sup>5</sup> Beckwith & Dickey, to Presidents to get Majr Hunter

\*Wash-  
ington

<sup>1</sup>This unusually long session of the Senate was obviously due to the considerable volume of executive business (i. e., the confirmation of presidential appointments) which had to be acted upon because of the nearness of the date of adjournment, which occurred on August 6.

<sup>2</sup>James A. McDougall, 1817-1867. Congressman from California, 1853-1855; senator, 1861-1867; Democrat.

<sup>3</sup>Willard Saulsbury, 1820-1892. United States senator, 1859-1871.

<sup>4</sup>This day closed the special session of the 37th Congress. In this session Browning voted for the Crittenden resolution declaring that the war was prosecuted to maintain the supremacy of the Union and not to interfere with the institutions of the seceded states, and he also supported the first confiscation act, the bill to punish conspiracies against the government, the resolution for expelling the "rebel" senators, and that favoring the admission of the "senators from Virginia," Willey and Carlile, who were in reality from West Virginia. He supported Trumbull's unsuccessful bill giving military commanders large powers over the civil authorities (relieving such commanders from the restraints of the habeas corpus writ), and he opposed an amendment which would have joined Northern disunionists with those of the South in responsibility for the war. In general he was less moderate than in his later senatorial career. *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 1 session, *passim*.

<sup>5</sup>Isaac N. Arnold, 1815-1884. Chicago lawyer; friend and biographer of Lincoln; congressman from Illinois.

appointed a Majr Genl. Then went to War Dept, Navy Dept: Secy of State's, Atto Genl's Post Office, Interior, Agricultural Bureau & to call on Miss Dix.<sup>1</sup> Got back to my room at 2 P. M. and wrote letters till 4 P. M. Then went with Senator Saulsbury to call on the President \*and at night attended party at Secretary of States, and met Prince Napoleon, Lord Lyon,<sup>2</sup> the French Ambassador and other Notabilities

\*Wash-  
ington

Thursday Augt 8, 1861 Very warm indeed At 9 A M went to call on Miss Dix, but she was too unwell to see me. Is thought dangerous Then went with Henry Lawrence to Treasury department—Then to Surgeon generals to see about hospital at Quincy—Then to War Department to see about appointments of Tillson & Briggs—Then to the Presidents—Then home, and engaged in writing letters rest of the day

\*Wash-  
ington

Friday Augt 9. 1861 Got my breakfast an hour earlier than usual—Went to the Presidents and had a talk with him. He then went with me to Genl. Scotts and had a talk with him We then went to the War Department, and I got Hollowbush appointed

†order†

Commissary—Got and from Dept to Gov Yates for Genl. McClermand, and went to Surgeon generals to see about appointments for the hospital at Quincy \*Returned my room paid my bill—finished my packing—got my dinner, Flood dining with me, and between one & two P. M. left Washington for Philadelphia on my way home. I was tired and dripping wet with perspiration. During the afternoon it turned cooler & rained, and I think I took a little cold, as I was quite unwell when I got to Philadelphia. Stopped at the Continental House, arriving before 10 O'clock, but nearly 12 before I got to bed

Wash-  
ington

Phila-  
delphia

Saturday August 10. 1861 Woke up unwell this morning. My skin sore to the touch, and suffering with billious diarrhea which has continued all day. Still I had to do some errands to enable me to get off for home Monday morning. I could just

<sup>1</sup>Dorothea Dix, 1794-1887; interested in the improvement of insane asylums; philanthropist; superintendent of hospital nurses during the war.

<sup>2</sup>Richard Bickerton Pemell, Earl Lyons, 1817-1887. British minister at Washington from 1858 to 1865.

drag myself around, but after breakfast I hunted up Ward and got him to go with me to Levy's Store where I bought a black lace shawl for Mrs Browning at \$125, and contracted with

<sup>240</sup>  
Rogers for a buggy at \$240—Hamlin of Chicago called to see me to day and had my room changed

Sunday Augt 11, 1861 Slept well last night and got up quite restored this morning—Went to Dr Boardman's Church, and then went to an old school Church in Broad Street and heard an excellent sermon from, I think, a Mr Crow. Townsend Ward & Rowland Cox dined with me—then Ward and I took a ride through a portion of the City, up the Wissihicken and through German Town, the most substantial, venerable looking Town I have seen. Saw the house in which Gen Washington resided in 1793.

Monday Augt 12. 1861 This morning I made two trips up and down through the Continental Hotel in the rail road car for carrying guests up and down. The car is operated by a revolving screw which passes through its centre, the car resting on the thread of the screw. It is a great relief from the usual mode of ascending and descending At 11½ left for home on the Pennsylvania Central road and reached Pittsburg about midnight. Has been raining some all day.

Tuesday Augt 13, 1861 About 1 O'clock A. M. left Pittsburg—ran out on Fort Wayne Road to New Brighton where we were stopped by the information that the road and bridges in advance of us had been torn up and swept away by the heavy rains of the preceding day. Remained here till about 10 A M, and then returned to Pittsburg, and went on a little stern wheel boat down to Wellsville to take the road to Cleveland—got down there just at night, and found the bridges on that road swept away, and had to remain there all night. A large crowd of us, Breckenridge and Boyle of Kentucky, Vories of Indiana McClernand of this State, and many persons on their way home from Washington The storm is said to have been the heaviest ever known there. The bridge over Beaver swept away & beached on the other shore of the Ohio River

\*Phila-  
delphia

\*Phila-  
delphia

\*Pitts-  
burg

\*Wells-  
ville

Wednesday Augt 14, 1861 Before day started on the Rail road via Steubenville, Zanesville, Columbus, Dayton & Indianapolis—Reached this last place about 6 or 7 p. m. Got supper at the Bates House—Got shaved, and started on again about 9 p. m. and ran up to Lafayette where we had to stay all night at the house at the junction a mile or two from the Town Col T L Dickey<sup>1</sup> of Ottowa who has been with us from Pittsburg, left us at Indianapolis to go on to Chicago

Lafayette  
& Quincy

Thursday Augt 15, 1861 About 9 A M got away from here, and reached home at 10 p. m.

Friday Augt 16. At home trying to rest.

Saturday 17. Same as yesterday

Sunday 18. At Church A M and evening. Rev Mr Barstow preached

\*Monday 19 Busy in office writing letters. At night with Mrs B. at Concert Hall at rehearsal of tableaux for exhibition by the Society of good Samaritans for benefit of volunteers

\*Quincy

Tuesday Augt 20, 1861 Took medicine last night, and have been at home all day under its influence. \*Lieut W<sup>m</sup> Shipley, who in company with W<sup>m</sup> Smith of this place has raised a company for the war left this p. m. with his company, for Camp Butler. Smith is Capt & Shipley first Lieutenant. He is a young German I have raised since he was 7 years old, and I feel a great interest in him Capt F A Dallam of Oquaka came to our house to day sick

Quincy

Wednesday Augt 21, 1861 At the solicitation of the citizens I started to St: Louis to day at noon, on board steamer Die Vernon in company with Mr Flagg, to see Genl. Fremont about making a Military Post of this place, having Munitions of war manufactured here &c The day was very warm indeed, but at night it rained quite heavily and cooled the atmosphere. On a sand bar sometime but got off before midnight and went on our

<sup>1</sup>Theophilus Lyle Dickey, 1812-1885. Served in the Mexican War and as colonel of the 11th Illinois Infantry in the Civil War. Candidate for congressman-at-large against John A. Logan in 1866. Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, 1876-1885.



way. Had a number of cavalry horses taken on board at Louisiana Mo:

\*St Louis Thursday Augt 22. 1861 Reached here about 8 O'clock A. M. and stopped at Barnum's Hotel. In forenoon called on Mrs Barrets family; and on Mrs Bennett—Immediately after dinner Flagg, Will Bushnell and myself went to Genl Fremonts head quarters, and had a very pleasant and satisfactory interview with him. I then paid my respects to Mrs Fremont. She is a large, good looking, sensible, intelligent woman, but not handsome. About as large as Mrs Browning

St Louis Friday Augt 23, 1861 After breakfast went with Flagg to Genl. Fremonts quarters, on business. Met Sherman & Corwine of Ohio there—Thence went to Genl. Popes<sup>1</sup> head quarters—He is dissatisfied—Thinks Illinois ought to have a Majr Genl. and have her own troops Brigaded and kept together—Says Majr Hunter is a good man, and would make a good Genl. but ought not to be appointed because he is not an Illinoisian—Says great dissatisfaction with Illinois troops—Says he wants Gov Yates appointed Majr Genl.<sup>2</sup> My own opinion is that is that he is fomenting dissatisfaction with a view to getting an appointment as Majr Genl himself—Says our troops will refuse to obey Hunter, admitting, at the same time, that he is a fine officer. I then called at Mrs Barrets & Mr Bennetts, and took leave of them preparatory to starting home At 4 P M started home on steamer Sucker State—A company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Iowa Regiment, who were in the battle at Springfield, and whose time has expired, on board returning home.

<sup>1</sup>John Pope, son of Nathaniel Pope, 1822-1892. Graduate of West Point, 1842; served in the Mexican War and as head of an expedition to survey a Pacific railroad route, 1854-1859. At the outbreak of the war he was commissioned brigadier general of volunteers, and assigned to the command in Missouri. In 1862 he was made brigadier general of the regular army, and in June was given command of the Army of Virginia. After the defeat of his army by Stonewall Jackson, he retired to Washington, and later, until 1865, he was employed against the Indians in Minnesota.

<sup>2</sup>In 1861 Illinois had no major generals. Grant was so commissioned February 16, 1862, and John Pope March 21, 1862. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Illinois, 1861-1866*, 1: 176.

Saturday Augt 24. 1861 Just above Louisiana when I got up—Reached Hannibal  $\frac{1}{4}$  before 11 A. M. \*Mrs Potts, Miss Martha Moors, Tom Moore & Col Howe of the army took tea with us.

Sunday Augt 25 At Church A M and evening. Mr Campbell of Mendon preached, and took dinner with us.

Monday Augt 26 \*At work in office At night attended exhibition of Tableaus at Concert Hall given by the "Good Samaritans," in aid of our soldiers—

Quincy

Tuesday Augt 27, 1861 Busy at the office Dr Greenleaf & wife of Knox County arrived at 11 O'clock to night on the Chicago train

Wednesday Augt 28 I took medicine last night, and have been at home most of the day. This A. M. Greenleaf took out all of Mrs Brownings teeth, 16 in number

\*Thursday Augt 29 After breakfast took a ride to place in 8<sup>th</sup> street with Mrs Greenleaf—The Dr took out three of Emmas teeth. At 5 P. M. he and Mrs Greenleaf started home. Miss O'Bannon Emma and I at Henry Bulls to tea—Came home at 10 at night

\*Quincy

Friday Augt 31, 1861 At work in office—Telegraphed Genl. Fremont about affairs in Missouri After tea went calling with Mrs Browning

Saturday Augt 31 Telegraphed Fremont and wrote him and the President \*Some commotion at night by a report that the rebels of Missouri intended to attack the City. They have been firing on the trains on the St Jo road for several days, but I have no fear of an attack here

\*Quincy

Sunday Sept 1 1861 Exceedingly warm day. Has been very warm and dry for several weeks—At Church A. M. & evening. Mr Barstow preached in A. M. & Mr Emery at night

Monday Sept 2 Bushnell gone to Macomb. A Regiment of Infantry under command of Col Loomis arrived this morning—also a company of Home guards from Jacksonville—These last have no business here, and will be sent back this P. M. Had unusually heavy rain at 5 P. M.

Quincy-  
†Spring-  
field† \*Tuesday Sept 3, 1861 Heavy rain just after day. \*At 5 p. m. started to St Louis via Springfield in company with Gov Wood & Sam Holmes<sup>1</sup> Reached Springfield at 11 O'clock at night, and I stopped at the American

Wednesday Sept 4 Remained in Springfield till 4 p. m. then took the cars and came to St Louis, where we arrived at 9 at night, and stopped at Barnums Had considerable talk with Du-bois & Butler who complain much of what they call the ill treatment of Illinois, and are anxious that Pope should be appointed a Majr Genl

\*St Louis Thursday Sept 5, 1861 After breakfast went with Gov Wood & Sam Holmes to see Genl Fremont. The Genl is anxious to move upon Memphis, and is much annoyed that troops he had expected from Indiana are not to be permitted to come, but for some reason the order has been countermanded and the troops to remain in Indiana Had an interview with Mrs Fremont & Miss Dix about contract with Good Samaritans of Quincy, for knitting socks &c for the army In afternoon went with Wood & Holmes to Quarter Masters department to try and get contract for furnishing oats, corn, hay &c for Western army, all of which they propose to furnish at the market price in St Louis at the time of delivery Majr M<sup>c</sup>Kinstry agreed to make the contract, but when they came to put it in writing he wished to restrict it to what was to be used in St Louis and the surrounding gar-risons, and it was not concluded—Will try it again tomorrow

\*St Louis Friday Sept 6, 1861 Jerry Boyle arrived here last night to see Genl Fremont—Genl Prentiss also came on account of his difficulty with Genl Grant. At 1 p m I went with Prentiss, Gov Wood, Sam Holmes and Boyle to Genl Fremonts Prentiss' difficulty was satisfactorily adjusted Fremont does not censure him, but will reinstate him in Command. I had an interview with Fremont in which he assured me that he would adhere firmly to his proclamation and carry out the policy he had commenced He also intends making a forward movement towards Memphis very soon—the army to move under command of Genl

St Louis

<sup>1</sup>Samuel Holmes was speaker of the House in the Illinois legislature, 1856-1858.

Chas Smith of the regular army Boyle is to have an interview with him at 4½ P. M. In the forenoon I called and had another interview with Majr M<sup>c</sup>Kinstry. He explained to me why he could not make a contract with Holmes more comprehensive than he proposed yesterday. His reasons were satisfactory At 4 P M took passage on steamer Sucker State for home. Mrs Kennedy and her two children with me

\*St Louis  
& Quincy

Saturday Sept 7. 1861 Reached home at 5 P. M. bringing Mrs. Kennedy and her children

Sunday Sept 8. At Mr Emery's Church in the morning—we having no preacher. Mr Glover of Jacksonville preached Not out at night Jno C Cox left to day to report himself as Commissary to Genl Fremont at St Louis

Quincy

Monday Sept 9. 1861 Fine day—Busy in office. W<sup>m</sup> H Brown & wife of Chicago and Sam Church & wife to tea, and quite a number of friends in to spend the evening

Tuesday Sept 10 Busy in office.

Wednesday Sept 11 Busy in office

Thursday Sept 12 Busy in office

\*Friday Sept 13 Commenced raining about 10 A M and continued all day. I took medicine last night, and was not out in P M of to day

Quincy

Saturday Sept 14, 1861 Dr Robertson arrived from Lexington Ky to breakfast this morning. Mrs Haws of California came to dinner—She is just from Missouri, and going to New York—Never saw her before but had to lend her \$20 to go on her journey

\*Sunday Sept 15 Took medicine last night and not out of the house today—Weather very warm and has been for some days past. Rained heavily again in the night

Quincy

\*Monday Sept 16, 1861 Dr Robertson left at 5 O'clk this morning for his farm near St. Jo: Busy in office After tea Mrs Kennedy, Miss O'Bannon and I called at Asbury's, and Miss O'B and I at Henry Bulls. Dr Robertson returned at night having got no further than Palmyra.



Tuesday Sept 17. At 5 this morning Dr R again left for St. Jo: Genl Jno Pope and Judge Archibald Williams took tea with us at my house

Quincy Wednesday Sept 18, 1861 Bushnell, who has been absent two weeks, to place his son William at Yale College got home this morning

\*Thursday Sept 19 A very warm day. At 5 P. M. started with Emma to Chicago to place her again at school with Mr Berteau

Friday Sept 20 Reached Chicago at 6 Oclock this morning—Stopped at the Briggs House, Room 207 At 11 took Emma over to school Very warm in A. M. but drizzling and cold in P. M. Emma and I took tea at Mr Rumsey's where she is to remain till Monday

Chicago Saturday Sept 21. 1861 Busy in forenoon. Among other things had my photgraph taken at Wallis' to be sent to an artist in N York for an Album of photographs he is preparing for Louis Napoleon At 2 P M went to Mr Arnolds to dinner with Ogden<sup>1</sup> and Rumsey. After dinner Ogden had his carriage and we all went to see the North pier at the mouth of the harbor, to the light house and to a shingle mill.—Beckwith, Caulfield & Strother in to see me after night Bright, but quite cool day

Chicago Sunday Sept 22. 1861 At North Presbyn: Church in forenoon with Emma & Meme Rumsey—Called at Rumseys about Sundown and took leave of Emma, and between 8 and 9 at night took the cars for home.

Quincy Monday Sept 23 Beautiful day. Got home between 9 & 10 A M. Before dinner Mrs B and I rode out to Gilpins garden. Rumor in Town apparently well founded that Mulligan and his whole command, have been compelled to surrender at Lexington to the rebel forces under Price. They were having a fierce fight with 5 or 6 to one against them for several days last week, but I hardly believe they have surrendered, as Fremont is said to have telegraphed to Chicago last night that he had relieved

<sup>1</sup>William B. Ogden, 1805-1877. First mayor of Chicago, and prominent in the city's business and philanthropic life.

them, and would capture Price \*At night from 1200 to 1500 unarmed troops without officers came in from Lexington, consisting of the Irish Brigade and of Marshalls Cavalry, who had surrendered to Price and been discharged on parol<sup>1</sup>

\*Quincy Tuesday Sept 24, 1861 Wrote a long letter to the President on public affairs All at Bushnells to tea

\*Wednesday Sept 25 Raining all the forenoon. Telegraphed Genl. Fremont about the troops now here from Lexington, and about the hospital at this place Mrs Kennedy, Miss OBannon and myself at Henry Bulls to tea

Thursday Sept 26 Dark, cool day—Day of fasting humiliation and prayer—Attended morning prayer meeting at Mr Emerys Church and afterwards preaching by him at same place In the evening went with Mrs B to the hospital

Quincy Friday Sept 27 1861 Cold & cloudy & misting Mrs Kennedy & her children left for St Louis to day. Letters from the President,<sup>2</sup> and from Forney

Saturday Sept 28 Bright & cold—Yesterday and to day the first days we have needed fire

\*Sunday Sept 29 Raining. Attended Mr Caprons Church in the morning, and not out again

\*Monday Sept 30 Wrote to President Lincoln 13 pages of fools cap in reply to his upon Fremont's proclamation<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>A Union force at Lexington, Missouri, under Colonel James A. Mulligan, of the 23d Illinois, surrendered to a force of Missouri State Guards (Confederate) operating under General Price, on September 20, 1861. *War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, series I, 53: 448-450. See also entry for November 8, 1861, *post*, 507-508.

<sup>2</sup>The letter from the President was obviously Lincoln's "private and confidential" letter to Browning of September 22, 1861, concerning Frémont's proclamation. (See below.)

<sup>3</sup>In his correspondence with Lincoln concerning Frémont, Browning vigorously upheld the general's course concerning the confiscation of slaves and other "rebel" property. The replies showed that his advice was not followed by the President. Lincoln's "private and confidential" letter to Browning dated September 22, 1861, was couched in severe tones and showed how Frémont's policy had transcended military authority. Lincoln stated that he could not allow that a general has the right to make permanent rules of property by proclamation. (Nicolay and Hay, *Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln*, Gettysburg ed., 6: 357-361). Browning's

Quincy

Tuesday Oct 1, 1861 At work in office. In afternoon Mrs B, and I took a ride in her new buggy, being the first time it has been out. We called at Henry Bulls, and looked at the Dahlias Miss O'Bannon went to day to Asburys to spend the rest of the week, and Mrs B and I are at home alone. Mailed a long letter to the President on Fremonts proclamation

Quincy

Wednesday Oct 2, 1861 Busy in office. Wrote Mr Secretary Cameron in regard to W W Jackson of Chicago, and also asking him to appoint Joseph B Gilpin a commissary or Quartermaster

\*Thursday Oct 3. Very warm day. Bushnell returned from St Louis. News arrived to day that Fremont had been super-

---

reply of September 30 covering "13 pages of foolscap" is to be found in the files of the Illinois State Historical Library at Springfield. It is a copy, not in Browning's hand. While showing the utmost respect for the President and making clear his purpose to support the administration, Browning renewed in this letter his arguments in support of Frémont's course. He considered the complaints against the general frivolous, pointed to the difficulties surrounding his position, and urged that his removal would be "damaging both to the administration and the cause." Frémont's proclamation, he said, embodied "a true and important principle." It dealt not with citizens, but with enemies, and was intended only to make use of the belligerent right to take enemies' property. The basis of the proclamation was not the statute of August 6, 1861—i. e., the first confiscation act—but its foundation was to be found in "the well ascertained and universally acknowledged principles of international law, . . . as acknowledged by all civilized nations." After quoting Burlamaqui and Grotius in support of the general right of confiscation, Browning continued: "Now the proclamation only declares, and I think truly declares the law as to one of our belligerent rights. It deals with public enemies only. It is, in terms, limited to those who are warring upon the government . . . and to no extent modifies the pre-existing law. I do not think it was an act of usurpation. I do not think it has in it any of the elements of dictatorship. I do not [*sic*] think it was fully warranted by the laws of war, and in entire harmony with all the principles of international law. I do further think that it is a highly important and very valuable power which the government ought not to surrender, and without the exercises of which this war can never be brought to a successful termination. I do not speak this in reference to slaves alone, but to all property." Continuing, Browning asserts the questionable right of a general to dispose of horses (or other property) captured from those in arms against the government "without accountability to anybody." It may be added that Browning was on doubtful ground when he argued that unlimited confiscation was a universally recognized belligerent right. On this subject, see *American Historical Review*, 18: 87, note 31.

ceded and ordered to Washington for trial. Hope it is not so Will be unfortunate if it is

\*Quincy Friday Oct 4, 1861 Very warm day with several heavy thunder showers. Busy in office Wrote to Lieut Shipley \*Mrs B and I at Gilpins to tea

Saturday Oct 5 Dark, cool, dismal day, occasionally raining In office busy \*Miss OB returned from Asburys.

Sunday Oct 6 Beautiful day. Not out in forenoon. In the evening Mrs B, Miss O'Bannon, Miss Martha Moore, her brother Tom and I went to Mr Gallahers Church

\*Quincy Monday Oct 7, 1861 Beautiful day. Bushnell gone to Carthage to Court \*Busy in office

Tuesday Oct 8 Fine day and warm. At work in office in A. M. and in my library in P. M. Mrs B, Miss O'B. and I took tea at Mrs Moores.

Wednesday Oct 9 Fine day. Genl. Prentiss here this A. M. on his way to St. Louis. Bains Regt left here to day for Missouri \*At work in Library in P. M.

\*Quincy Thursday Oct 10, 1861 Rained all day. At office in A. M. and in my library P. M.

Friday Oct 11 Beautiful day. Wrote the President in regard to appointment of Col Woodyard of Canton Missouri

\*Saturday Oct 12 Very fine day. At work in office. After tea took ride with Mrs B. and called on the new preacher & his wife Mr Piper and lady at Dr Darracks

Quincy Sunday Oct 13, 1861 Lovely day. At Church A. M. and P. M. Mr Piper, who has been engaged for a time, preached his first sermons. Like him well and think he gives promise of usefulness. Mr & Mrs Allen with us to dinner. Mr William Chickering of Boston to tea,—After tea Dr Bailey of St Louis, Surgeon in in the army, and Dr Castle called in regard to Hospital

Quincy Monday Oct 14, 1861 Warm, lovely day. At the office Wrote to the President on behalf of Delano to get authority for him to raise another cavalry company, to be added to his command.



Tuesday Oct 15 Warm, cloudy day threatenng rain. Wrote to the President asking consular appointment for Prof: Mc Chesney, and to Secy Camron on behalf of Flagg—\*Church sociable at our house at night—

\*Quincy Wednesday Oct 16, 1861 Warm, cloudy day. Busy in office. Miss Eliza O'Bannon left this P. M. for Jacksonville, whence she expects to go home to Lexington Ky—

\*Thursday Oct 17 In office A. M. In P. M. rode out to my garden in 8<sup>th</sup> street and over to the hospital Warm, pleasant day

Friday Oct 18 Cloudy & cool

Saturday Oct 19 Fine day. At work in office. Dr Robertson arrived at night on his way from Missouri to Ky

Quincy Sunday Oct 20. 1861 Lovely day. At Church A M & P. M.

Monday Oct 21 Pleasant day. In office in forenoon After dinner crossed the river with Dr Robertson and gave bond to enable him to get his three negroes Alfred, Matilda and Jo on this side, all of whom he took with him to Ky starting on 5 P M train via Springfield At night Mrs B and I called at I. O. Woodruffs

Quincy Tuesday Oct 22. 1861 Bleak, chilly day. At work in office Bushnell came home from Hancock Court Saturday night, and went back this A. M. by the packet \*Hon C B Lawrence with us to tea

Wednesday Oct 23 Bright, beautiful morning but cool—Some little frost last night \*At 5 P M in company with John Williams took the cars for Chicago to attend U S Circuit Court

Chicago Thursday Oct 24, 1861 Arrived at 6 A. M. Stopped at Briggs House—room 22. Attended Court A. M. In P. M. went over to Mr Berteau's to see Emma—Went with her for a walk on the Lake shore—Called a few minutes at Mr Rumseys Returned to the Briggs House to tea, and then went with Judge John S Thompson<sup>1</sup> to the theatre to see Hackett<sup>2</sup> in Falstaff in

<sup>1</sup>John S. Thompson was judge of the tenth circuit in Illinois from 1855 to 1860 and from 1864 to 1867.

<sup>2</sup>James H. Hackett, 1800-1871.

Henry 4<sup>th</sup> He did tolerably well, but was poorly supported and the play was rather dull

Chicago

Friday Oct 25, 1861 Big white frost yesterday morning, the first I have seen this fall—but a beautiful day followed. Lovely again to day. Attended Court After tea went over to Mr Berteau's and brot Emma over with me, and took her to the theatre for the first time in her life. Hacket was in low comedy and very funy. Emma said she thought she could enjoy it about once in a month, but could get very tired if she had to go often

\*Chicago

Saturday Oct 26, 1861 After breakfast took Emma back to Mr Berteau's, and then attended Court. At night went to the theatre and saw Hacket in Falstaff in the merry wives of Windsor. He did it very well—much better than in Henry 4<sup>th</sup> but in neither of them did he come up to my conceptions of Falstaff

\*Chicago

Sunday Oct 27, 1861 At church with Emma on the North side A. M. and evening; and heard two excellent Sermons from Dr Lord

Monday Oct 28 Attending Court. The weather continues very fine

\*Tuesday Oct 29 Attending Court Cool, dark and very windy day—Rained some in P M and at night

\*Chicago

Wednesday Oct 30. 1861 Gloomy day. Attending Court in A. M. In P M went over to Mr Berteaus to see Emma

\*Thursday Oct 31 Attending Court, and at Wallis & Brothers Gallery and had photograph taken \*At 5¼ P M went to Jno V Ayer's to dinner, with Robt Forsythe & wife & others Then went over to Mr Berteaus and took Emma to vocal concert at Bryants Hall given by the Lumbards & others amatures

Chicago

Friday Nov 1. 1861 Warm, cloudy day. At Court in A. M. In P. M. wrote to Mrs Browning, the President & others, and at 5 P. M. went to dinner to Robt Forsythes. At 8 went to Mr Berteau's to Musical soirie given by Mrs Bostwick, and back to my room between 9 & 10—

Chicago

Saturday Nov 2. 1861 Cloudy, windy, gloomy day. Attended Court in fornoon.

\*At 1½ P. M. went to the Sherman House, and dined with Pro-

fessor McChesney, Mr & Mrs Dresser of Lafayette, Ia: to whom I was introduced by him, were of the party. After dinner called on Mrs Blinn in the house

Sunday

Chicago Sunday Nov 3 1861 Pleasant day. At Church with Emma A. M. \*and evening. Took tea at the Sherman House with Mr & Mrs Gibson of Springfield. After returning from Church at night called at same house, and had an interview with Hon Mr Holmon<sup>1</sup> of Ia: of the investigating committee, and Mr Ball, Sergeant at arms of the H. R. The both concur in opinion that Fremont is unfit for command, and that the frauds in his department are astounding

Chicago Monday Nov 4. 1861 Attending Court all day. Tried with Hazard the case of Lombard vs Graham and submitted to Court—At night went to the Sherman House and had an interview with Washburn another one of the army investigating Committee. He and Holman both agree that there are the most stupendous and astounding frauds in the Western Department and that Fremont is surrounded by Scoundrels. They think him incompetent for command, but have no evidence of his dishonesty

Chicago Tuesday Nov 5, 1861 Attending Court—Tried case of Lombard vs Smith. \*At 3 P. M. went to Mr Berteau's to see Emma—At 4. went to Larneds to dinner with Judge Drummond & Honble I N Arnold. In evening called on Mrs Gibson, Miss Balance and Miss Greene at the Sherman House—Returned to my room and Pay Master N G Wilcox called to see me.

[A leaf of the diary lost here.]

\*Quincy Friday Nov 8, 1861 Rev Mr Mathews of Monmouth dined  
9  
with us and then went to Springfield. Writing letters in P. M. Just at gas lighting met Genl. Hurlbut in the Post office.

In conversation about Genl Fremont, Lexington &c Hurlbut stated that on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Sept: Gen Pope, who was then on the line between Quincy & St Jo, received orders from Fremont to re-

<sup>1</sup>William S. Holman, 1822-1897. Congressman from Indiana, 1859-1865, 1867-1877, 1881-1895, 1897. He was at this time a member of the House committee to inquire into government contracts.

Quincy lieve Lexington, and that Pope then had 6000 men under his command, but did not move. I know, as a fact that on the 16 of Sept Pope came over the St Jo road to Quincy, and remained here till the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> and then went to St Louis. I called on him at the Quincy House on the 17<sup>th</sup> and in conversation with him about Lexington he expressed the opinion that our troops there were probably captured, but said nothing of having

Quincy had orders to reinforce Mulligan I asked him about his operations along the line of the road—He said that he had been out as far as St Jo and pacified the Country—that there would be no more trouble there—and that there was not a rebel in North Missouri except a few hundred up about Canton, and he had telegraphed to St Louis for a Government boat to be sent up to take him to Canton (Canton is 20 miles above Quincy, & packets constantly running, and I mentioned to him that he could go in a packet, but he answered that he must have a boat sent up specially for him) I told him I understood there was quite a large encampment of rebels 16 miles from St Jo—He said that was true, but that he had sent a force in pursuit of them, I think the Iowa third, and that he would have them bagged by night He took tea at my house on the 17<sup>th</sup> and went to Springfield next day.

Quincy Just before night Adam Smith brot us a despatch received from Cairo from his son Capt W<sup>m</sup> Smith saying that a terrible battle had been fought and that Lieut W<sup>m</sup> Shipley was among the missing Where fought and by what forces he did not say.<sup>1</sup> We are in distress about Shipley and fear he may have been killed. He is a young man who was raised in our family

\*Quincy Saturday Nov 9. 1861 Just after breakfast this morning received a despatch from Capt Smith, from Cairo, that Lieut Shipley's body had been recovered under a flag of truce—that he was mortally wounded, and died yesterday evening among his friends. I telegraphed immediately to have his body put in a metalic coffin and sent home for interment. Have written Dr Warren to come down.

<sup>1</sup>This refers to the battle of Belmont, Missouri, fought November 7, 1861.



Quincy Sunday Nov 10, 1861 Weather warm & lovely—Gathered from the garden this morning as beautiful roses as any of the season. \*I attended Church in morning and afternoon

Monday Nov 11 Capt Delano returned to day from Hancock where he went on Saturday on a visit to his parents. I received despatch to night from Garishe of Washington, that Capt Jno Tillson should report at Indianapolis, and not at Cincinnati

Quincy Tuesday Nov 12. 1861 Very warm day. Have to wear light summer clothes—Garden still green as summer: At 8 O'clock this evening Dr & Mrs Warren arrived from Macomb to attend funeral of Lieut Shipley Capt Delano left at 3 P. M. via Springfield for his command in company Holt, Ky—\*Dr & Mrs Warren of Macomb and Mrs Bettie Miller of Knoxville arrived to night. \*I waited for and received Mrs Miller at the depot at midnight

Quincy Wednesday Nov 13, 1861 At 1 P. M. the body of Lieut Shipley arrived, attended by Genl Prentiss, Capt Smith and a military escort. At 3 P. M. the funeral took place from my house—the funeral services being conducted by Dr Warren. He was buried with Military honors, an immense concourse of people attending

Thursday Nov 14 At home in my Library writing letters Nothing particular transpiring

\*Quincy Friday Nov 15, 1861 Weather continues very delightful—Dr & Mrs Warren left at 4 O'clock this morning. I took medicine last night, and about the house most of the day. After dinner took a ride with Mrs Miller out to Gov Woods, and to my place in 8<sup>th</sup> street

\*Quincy Saturday Nov 16. 1861 Another fine day. Mrs Miller left for home via rail road at 1 P. M. In afternoon I went to the office and worked. Turned cooler as night drew near, clouded up and commenced cool drifting rain just after night

\*Sunday Nov 17 At Church A M & P. M. Mr Piper preach<sup>d</sup> Fine Indian Summer day.

\*Quincy Monday Nov 18. 1861 Big white frost—Fine day—\*At 4 P. M. took the cars for Galesburg and arrived there at 9. Stopped at Mr Pitchers

Tuesday Nov 19. Thunder storm & rain this morning before day, and cloudy, drizzly day. Meeting of board of Trustees of Knox College Elected Selden Gale a Trustee in place of his father dec<sup>d</sup> Dined at Mrs Gale's—Took tea at Mr Pitchers, and at 9 at night took the cars for Mendota on my way to Cairo.

\*On the  
Road

Wednesday Nov 20. 1861 Very beautiful day. Breakfasted at Decatur, having taken the Central Road at Mendota last night at midnight After breakfast continued our journey and reached Centralia just before night where we have to wait till 10½ for the train from Chicago Bryant of Princeton and Wolcott of Quincy in company Col Buford on his return from St Louis joined me at Centralia, and at 11 Oclock at night we came on to Cairo

Cairo

Thursday Nov 21. 1861 Reached Cairo before day, but slept till 7. Then went with Col Buford to his quarters, and breakfasted, dined and supped with him Immediately after breakfast we mounted our horses, and were in the saddle and on the gallop a great part of the day. During the A. M. we visited the Gun Boat Lexington anchored in the middle of the Ohio under Command of Capt Stambell of the Navy, and paid our respects to his lady who was on board. Returned and visited the fort on the point in Cairo, and attended parades &<sup>e</sup> After dinner a Steamer was placed at our disposal—We took our horses aboard & crossed to the Camp at Birds point in Missouri, and after calling on Col Oglesby galloped all through the Camp, saw the batteries, fortifications &<sup>e</sup> and then crossed to Fort Holt in Kentucky,<sup>1</sup> called on Col Cooke and his lady at his quarters, examined his defences, galloped all through his Camp, and then returned to Cairo and Continued in the saddle till sundown galloping through the encampment, and witnessing the parade of several of the Regiments

Cairo

Cairo

<sup>1</sup>The Seventh Illinois Infantry Regiment under Colonel John Cook of Springfield was at Fort Holt, Kentucky, near Cairo, Illinois, in the winter of 1861-1862. Under General Grant the regiment participated in the operations at Forts Henry and Donelson and at Shiloh. Cook's regiment was the first mustered into service in the state under President Lincoln's call for three-months' troops. It was numbered seventh in recognition of six regiments supplied by Illinois in the Mexican War. *Report of the Adjutant General of Illinois, 1861-1866*, 1: 384.

Bufords, Lawlers, Logans, and one other \*At 10 O'clock at night went aboard the cars on the Illinois Central Road and went to bed Lovely night

On the Road Friday Nov 22, 1861 At 4 O'clock this morning left Cairo. It was raining very heavily and had been for sometime—Breakfasted at Centralia, and then continued on the Chicago branch to Tolono which we reached at 3 P. M. There I took the Great Western to Springfield where I arrived just after six and stopped at the American Became quite cold in the afternoon

\*Spring-field Saturday Nov 23, 1861 Quite hard frozen this morning, and cold cloudy day, spitting snow. Went with Dubois and called on the Gov who was sick in bed. Got order detaching Delano from Nobles Regiment & authorizing him to add another Company to his Command Also got Col Bufords promotions confirmed, and tried to get McClernand's Regiments filled Wrote to Capt Delano Col Buford & Genl Mc Clernand Busy through the day picking up such information as I could in regard to the State of public affairs \*Went to depot to start home at 6 P. M. but did not get away till 9½, the train being behind time, A sleeping car was attached, and I went to bed In the afternoon called at Dr Brown's and on Mr & Mrs Gibson

\*Quincy Sunday Nov 24, 1861 Cold, cloudy day. At Church A. M. having reached home about 4 this morning. In afternoon rode out to Esqrs Asbury's with Mrs Taylor of Keokuk who I found at my house when I got home.

Monday Nov 25 Cold & cloudy. Arranging my affairs to start to Washington

Quincy & Chicago \*Tuesday Nov 26 Cool & cloudy. At 4 P. M. started for Washington via Chicago Took Harriet Sellen of Pittsfield, a niece of Mr Grimshaw, under my charge, to be left at Wilmington Del: Thunder lightning, & some rain after night At Galesburg took the sleeping cars & knew nothing more till morning.

Wednesday Nov 27 Reached here between 5 & 6 this morning—stopped at Briggs House. After breakfast went over to Mr Berteaus & brought Emma to stay with me to day. \*Took

her back after dinner, and at 6 P. M. took the cars for Pittsburg Wrote to Mrs B to day

\*On the Road

Thursday Nov 28. 1861 Breakfasted at Crestline. Reached Pittsburg between 3 & 4 P. M. and continued our journey on towards Philadelphia—Senator Lane of Indiana & his wife & her sister, Judge Law<sup>1</sup> of Indiana, and Kellogg his wife, son & daughter along. Also Pitman of Quincy. They all joined at Pittsburg Passed through the mountains in the night Dark & some what rainy—

Philadel-  
phia

Friday Nov 29. 1861 Reached Philadelphia at 8 A. M. and stopped at Continental Hotel, room 48—Foggy misty day. Sent little Harriet Sellon on to Wilmington Delaware by the noon train Then called on Mrs Hunter and Miss Nellie Bushnell, and in the after noon did some errands and wrote to Mrs Brown-  
ing

\*Phila-  
delphia  
& Wash-  
ington

Saturday Nov 30. 1861 Rained last night, and raining some this morning. At 12 Oclock took the cars for Washington, and arrived here about 5 in the evening. Stopped at Mrs Carters— Quite a number of Senators and representatives along Cleared off in the afternoon, and a very bright, beautiful night and quite mild

\*Wash-  
ington

Sunday Decr 1. 1861 Am sorry to say I have not been to Church to day. Late in afternoon I went to the Presidents and had a long talk with him. He is very hopeful of ultimate success. He suggested to me the policy of paying Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky & Missouri \$500 a piece for all the negroes they had according to the census of 1860, provided they would adopt a system of gradual emancipation which should work the extinction of slavery in twenty years, and said it would require only about one third of what was necessary to support the war for one year; and agreed with me that there should be connected with it a scheme of colonizing the blacks some where on the American Continent, There was no disagreement in our views upon any subject we discussed

Wash-  
ington

<sup>1</sup>John Law, 1796-1873. Judge of the Court of Land Claims; representative from Indiana in the 37th and 38th congresses.



\*Wash-  
ington Monday Decr 2, 1861 Senate met at 12 m. Appointed committee to inform President of organization & adjourned.

Tuesday Nov 3. Received Presidents message. I attended Supreme Court at 11. A. M. and heard Mr Bates announce the death of Judge Mc Lean—I afterwards called on the judges and was introduced by Mr Bates

Wash-  
ington Wednesday Decr 4, 1861 In A. M. called on the President  
Nov  
with Senator Harlan<sup>1</sup> of Iowa to get Van Antwerp appointed on Halleck's staff. The President wrote a note requesting Genl Mc Clelland to make the appointment Wrote Mrs Browning

Thursday Decr 5 The Senate adjourned over to day till Monday Nov

\*Wash-  
ington Friday Dec 6. 1861 Busy all day at the departments and the Presidents, and preparing an article on the law governing the case of Mason & Slidele for the President at night—Wrote Mrs B.

Saturday Dec 7 Employed as yesterday till night, and then writing letters Both days have been very lovely

Wash-  
ington Sunday Decr 8 1861 Very lovely day, and as mild as Spring.  
7  
Was at Dr Gurley's Church morning & evening, and quite too warm for an overcoat. Wrote Mrs Browning

\*Monday Decr 9 Attending Senate Nothing particular  
8  
except warm weather Mrs Wadworth called at the Senate to see me. Had not seen her since Hardin's death

Wash-  
ington Tuesday Decr 10 1861 Attending Senate At night was at a wedding party at Mr Carroll's, Miss Sallie Carroll married to Capt Griffin of U S Army The President & Mrs Lincoln were present. President told me had heard thro the French Minister that the law officers of England had decided that we were justifiable by the law of Nations in the arrest of Mason & Slidell, and

<sup>1</sup>James Harlan, 1820-1899. Senator from Iowa, 1855 to 1865; became Lincoln's secretary of the interior in March, 1865; served again as senator, 1867 to 1873.

Wash-  
ington

that there would probly be no trouble about it<sup>1</sup> The eulogies on Senator Bingham were delivered in the Senate to day, and are to be pronounced on Senator Baker tomorrow The President informed me to night that he was anxious to attend on the occasion, and asked me if it would be proper for him to do so. I told him I could see no impropriety and thought it would be eminently proper.

\*Wash-  
ington  
Wednes-  
day

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Decr 11, 1861 Just after the meeting of the Senate the President came to his room in the capitol, and sent his private Secretary to inform me he was there. I and my colleague Senator Trumbull went to his room and escorted him into the Senate Chamber where a Chair had been provided for him by the side of the Vice President, which he took and occupied during the ceremonies in honor of Senator Baker.<sup>2</sup> The galleries were crowded to overflowing. Speeches were made upon the occasion by Nesmith, McDougall myself, Cowan,<sup>3</sup> Dixon,<sup>4</sup> Sumner & Latham in the order in which I have named them At the conclusion of them the Senate adjourned. Trumbull and

<sup>1</sup>Concerning the Trent affair Browning in a letter of December 18, 1861, to a niece, Miss Eliza O'Bannon of Lexington, Kentucky, commented as follows:

"I do not think we are in much danger of war with England. As yet no official information has been received from that Government in regard to the Mason and Slidell affair; and the blustering of British papers is no very good index of the purposes of the British Government.

"We were clearly right in what we did—fully justified by the principles of international law, as always expounded and acted upon by England herself; and I hope she will not endeavor to force a quarrel upon us on that account. But if she does let it come. We are determined, at all hazards, to hold on to the prisoners, and if England chooses to go to war about it, it is not probable other European powers will be idle spectators. There will be a general upheaving of the nations."

The Illinois State Historical Library has a copy of this letter, through the courtesy of Miss Mary B. O'Bannon of Berkeley, California.

<sup>2</sup>Lincoln's attendance at the Senate proceedings in honor of Senator Edward D. Baker of Oregon was a tribute to a close friend and former political associate in Illinois. See *ante*, 21 n. 1.

<sup>3</sup>Edgar Cowan, 1815-1885. United States senator from Pennsylvania, 1861-1867; appointed minister to Austria by President Johnson in 1867, but not confirmed by the Senate.

<sup>4</sup>James Dixon, 1814-1873. Senator from Connecticut, 1857-1869.

I escorted the President back to his room, and thence to his carriage Wrote to Mrs Browning at night

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Decr 12. 1861 Attending Senate—Adjourned over till Monday, and afterwards wrote letters till 11 O'clock at night

Friday Decr 13. Busy at the Departments till 3 P. M. and then writing till bed time

\*Saturday Decr 14 At Presidents, Department & Surgeon Genl<sup>s</sup> all day, and writing at night Wrote long letter to Mrs Browning

Wash-  
ington

Sunday Decr 15, 1861 At Dr Gurleys Church in the morning At 5 P M went with Coleman Sympson to call on the President—I remained to tea—Galloway<sup>1</sup> of Ohio & Colfax of Indiana at tea also Mr Seward came in with despatches stating that the British Cabinet had decided that the arrest of Mason and Slidell was a violation of International law, and that we must apologize and restore them to the protection of the British flag. I don't believe England has done so foolish a thing and so told the Pres: & Secy, but if she is determined to force a war upon us why so be it. We will fight her to the death. Galloway and I went to Dr Gurleys Church

Wash-  
ington

\*Wash-  
ington

Monday Decr 16, 1861 Trumbull introduced into the Senate to day a resolution calling upon the Secy of State to inform the Senate by what authority he arrested and placed in confinement suspected persons. It was debated all day. I opposed it and made a speech against it. It was finally referred to the Committee on the Judiciary which was equivalent to defeat—its opponents all voting for the reference

\*Wash-  
ington

Tuesday Decr 17. 1861 In Senate—Morning and evening writing letters Wrote to Mrs Browning

\*Wednesday Decr 18. Busy in Senate and with correspondence.

Thursday Decr 19 Just at night went to the Presidents and had a long interview with him. He proposed that I should go

<sup>1</sup>Perhaps Samuel Galloway, 1812-1872; elected secretary of state of Ohio, 1844; Republican representative in the 34th Congress, 1855-1857; defeated for 35th and 36th congresses.

Wash- with him to call on Genl McClelland which I did, being my first  
ington meeting with him. I was favourably impressd—like his plain,  
direct straight forward way of talking and acting. He has brains  
—looks as if he ought to have courage, and I think, is altogether  
more than an ordinary man—Wrote Mrs B

Friday Dec 20 Busy in Senate, and with correspondence.  
W<sup>m</sup> Bushnell here

\*Wash- Saturday Dec 21 1861 Spent the forenoon until after 12 in  
ington the Committee of Foreign relations considering the *projét* of a  
treaty transmitted by Mr Corwin proposing to loan Mexico nine  
millions of dollars to extricate her from her present difficulties  
with France & England, for which she proposed to mortgage  
lower California, Chi [huahua?] Sonora & Sinaloa and give  
some other Securities. I was for the advising the making the

Wash- treaty provided it was acceptable to France and England and  
ington would get them out of our waters till our domestic troubles were  
ended. But as we did not know the dispositions of France and  
England in the regard to the matter the subject was post poned  
for the present. Spent the rest of the afternoon at the depart-  
ments and in writing letters \*After tea went to the Presidents  
and had a long private interview with him in relation to the  
affair of the Trent with England He told me that the despatches  
from England had not yet been delivered by Lord Lyons, but  
were with held for a few days at Mr Swards request, but  
that he had an inkling of what they were, and feared trouble.

Wash- I told him I was anxious a rupture should be avoided at present  
ington if it could be done without humiliation and dishonor, in which  
he expressed his full concurrence, and we both agreed that the  
question was easily susceptible of a peaceful solution if Eng-  
land was at all disposed to act justly with us, and suggested  
that it was a proper case for arbitration. I also said that as  
some of the rights of neutrals according to the principles of  
international law have long been in dispute between us and  
England say to England to make her statement of what the law of  
Nations is which shall govern this case, and all cases similarly cir-  
cumstanced now, and forever hereafter, and we will agree to it.

Wash-  
ington



The President replied that the same thoughts had occurred to his mind and that he had reduced the propositions to writing. He then took from his desk and read me a very able paper,<sup>1</sup> which he intends, at the proper time, shall go as a letter from the Secretary of State to Lord Lyons (it now has that form) and in which both the foregoing propositions are stated with great force and clearness, and very much more in detail than I have given them. After we had concluded our talk we went down and spent a half hour with Mrs Lincoln, meeting Gov Morton<sup>2</sup> of Indiana and his wife, and another gentleman & lady there. The President and I then went to Genl McClellan's and spent a half hour very pleasantly with him and Mrs McClellan. She is good looking, sprightly, agreeable and well bred.

Sunday Decr 22, 1861 At Dr Gurleys Church in the morning. The President and Mrs Lincoln brot me home in their carriage. I am fatigued and will not go out to night. Esqr Asbury of Quincy called to see me between 5 & 6. in company with his son Lieut Asbury.

Monday Decr 23. 1861 The weather has been very fine and mild ever since I came here. Last night it rained, and to day became quite cold and snowed & sleeted a little, and blustered a great deal. Writing in morning—then in the Senate till 4 p. m. and then writing till bed time.

<sup>1</sup>The paper to which Browning refers was the "experimental draft" of a proposed despatch which Nicolay and Hay have given us in full as found in the President's handwriting. Its chief proposals were arbitration, or, in lieu thereof, reparation by the United States in return for an acknowledgement by Great Britain that the principle so fixed should be regarded as "the law for all future analogous cases" between the two nations. In the cabinet consultation of December 25 it appears that the President's draft was not followed, but that Seward's paper was adopted as the basis of settlement. Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln*, 5:32 ff.

<sup>2</sup>Oliver Perry Morton, 1823-1877. Elected lieutenant governor in 1860 with Henry Lane, he became governor on Lane's election to the Senate. He displayed great energy as a war governor, but his attitude concerning extreme war measures produced opposition at home. The Democratic legislature, elected 1863, refused to accept his message, whereupon the Republicans withdrew, leaving the two houses without a quorum. Obtaining advances from the banks, 1863-1865, he appointed a Bureau of Finance to make expenditures and refused to summon the legislature. He was reelected in 1864, resigning in 1867 to take a seat in the Senate, where he served until his death.

\*Tuesday Decr 24 Went to Presidents with enrolled bills—Then attended Senate—Then again to Presidents Then called on Gov Yates, Jesse Dubois & Genl Lane—Then writing till bed time

\*Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Dec 25, 1861 Bright, pretty & rather mild day—Can walk about without overcoat. \*Writing letters good part of the day. Wrote to Mrs Browning & Emma—At 6 p. m. went to the Presidents to dinner, Gov Wickliffe<sup>1</sup> & wife P. M. Genl Blair & wife Attorney Genl. Bates Frank Blair<sup>2</sup> & wife Asst Secy of Navy Fox<sup>3</sup> & wife, Rev Dr Gurley & wife, Bigelow Lawrence & wife, Mrs Lee, old F. P. Blair,<sup>4</sup> Dubois, Campbell & Dr Jayne<sup>5</sup> of Springfield Illinois & one or two others constituted the Company.

Wash-  
ington

told me

After the Company had all left the Prest<sup>5</sup> they had had a cabinet meeting about British affairs to day, and had agreed not to divulge what had occurred, but that there would be no war with England That whilst the cabinet was in session the French

<sup>1</sup>Charles A. Wickliffe, 1788-1869. Elected lieutenant governor of Kentucky, 1836, becoming acting governor, 1839; postmaster general under Tyler, 1841-1845; representative in Congress, 1823-1833, 1861-1863.

<sup>2</sup>Francis P. Blair, Jr., 1821-1875. Son of F. P. and brother of Montgomery Blair; elected to 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th congresses; entered the army as colonel of volunteers, but was commissioned brigadier general in 1861, and major general in 1862; candidate for vice president, 1868; United States senator, 1871-1873. Blair's seat in Congress was successfully contested by Samuel Knox in 1864. Browning acted as his counsel. See diary entry for May 21, 1864, *post*, 670.

<sup>3</sup>Gustavus Vasa Fox, 1821-1883. Served as a naval officer in the war with Mexico. April, 1861, Lincoln directed him to put into execution a plan for the relief of Fort Sumter, but it could not be carried out. He was appointed assistant secretary of the navy, July 31, 1861, and served throughout the war.

<sup>4</sup>Francis Preston Blair, Sr., 1791-1876. Editor of the *Globe* from 1830 to 1845, when against Jackson's protests he was removed by Polk. After the repeal of the Missouri Compromise he became active in the Republican party. In 1864, believing that his personal acquaintance with Southern leaders might be utilized to effect a peace, he obtained a pass to the South without stating his purpose, but his efforts led only to the unsatisfactory conference of February 3, 1865. He coöperated with the Democrats during the reconstruction period.

<sup>5</sup>This might be either Dr. Gershom Jayne, 1791-1867, a Springfield pioneer, or his son, Dr. William Jayne, born in 1826, appointed governor of Dakota in 1861. Lyman Trumbull married his sister Julia.

Minister sent them a letter he had just received from his government saying that the European powers were against us on the question of international law, and desired that we should settle the Controversy amicably. Also Sumner sent three letters which he had just recvd from England, one from Bright and two from Cobden,<sup>1</sup> both of whom are our friends, and both urging a settlement, and both saying that the dispositions of the English are friendly—that England does not want war with us, and that if this trouble is settled they will not interfere in our domestic troubles, but leave us to deal with the rebellion as we think proper—

Thursday Decr 26 Senate in session a while, but no quorum. Wrote to Mrs Browning and did other correspondence.

Friday Decr 27. 1861 At war department in the morning. At work afterwards till 6 P. M. when I went to Mr Seward's dinner. Senators King, Harris<sup>2</sup> & wife, & Mr Sumner, Mr Crittenden & wife, Mr Trollope<sup>3</sup> of England and some others present. After dinner Mr Seward took King, Harris, Sumner and myself to his room and read us the despatch from England in regard to the Trent affair and his reply thereto. His letter to Mr Adams our Minister to England, the letter of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs to the resident minister here, and his reply to that. The conclusion he arrived at was that we could not hold Mason & Slidell because we had not captured the Trent. We all agreed with him that in the present exigency they should be given up. Mr Crittenden came in during the reading, and at its conclusion swore vehemently, but I did not learn the precise cause of his wrath—whether it was because Wilkes had arrested the men or because the government had agreed to release them—but he was very angry about something.

<sup>1</sup>The Bright-Cobden-Sumner correspondence concerning the Trent affair is well summarized in Rhodes, *History of the United States*, 3:528 ff.

<sup>2</sup>Ira W. Harris, 1802-1875. Senator from New York, 1861-1867.

<sup>3</sup>Anthony Trollope visited the United States from August, 1861, to May, 1862, and wrote a book, *North America*, which presented a favorable view of the Northern cause to the British public. The dinner with Seward is mentioned in his autobiography. *Autobiography of Anthony Trollope*, 143.

Saturday Decr 28 Busy most of the day in my committee room Frank Blair came to my room at night and had a long talk about Mr Secy Seward. He thinks him selfish, ambitious and incompetent and that he ought to be removed—else he will involve us in war with England

Wash-  
ington

Sunday Decr 29 1861 At Dr Gurleys Church A. M. and evening At 5 P. M went to the Presidents & stayed till Church time with him—Nothing special discussed

\*Monday Dec 30 Short session of the Senate to day. Afterwards at work with Correspondence until late at night

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday Decr 31. 1861 In forenoon at the war department in regard to Scotch Regt of Chicago<sup>1</sup>—at Surgeon Genls off: and Land office Afterwards at work in my Committee room

<sup>1</sup>The first "Scotch Regiment," recruited largely from Chicago and vicinity, was commanded by Colonel John McArthur. Its regular designation was the 12th Infantry. *Report of the Adjutant General of Illinois, 1861-1866*, 1: 222, 551 ff.



## 1862

\*Wash-  
ington  
D. C.

Wednesday Jany 1, 1862<sup>1</sup> I thank God for all his mercies of the past year. They have been great and many, and undeserved. And I invoke his blessing upon me and mine through the year upon which I am just entering; and beseech of him to enlighten my understanding, that I may see the wisdom and acknowledge the justice of all his ways, and to give me grace to do his will, faithfully to perform all the duties which devolve upon, and to shun all the sins, and the temptations to sin which beset me, and to enable me to live a better, and more useful life in the future than I have ever done in the past. The day has been very bright and mild. I have been out all day without an overcoat. Worked in the forenoon, and between 1 & 2 O'clock went to pay my respects to the President and Mrs Lincoln. I remained with them till the reception was over. The crowd was very great and for the first time in my life I had my pocket picked of my purse, which contained I think from \$50 to \$100 in gold—I do not know exactly how much. After this I called at Senator McDougall's, at P. M. General Blairs, Mr Carrolls where I took my dinner—At Secretary Smiths, and on Mrs. Lemon at Willards Hotel, and came home just at night<sup>at</sup>.

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Jany 2. Senate had a short session, but no quorum. Engaged in correspondence most of the day. In the morning went with Fitzhugh of Springfield to the Treasury Department, and after dinner with Henry Lawrence to see Genl Lane.

Dr S W Rogers of Quincy Illinois reached here to day, and called with Flood at my Committee Room—Genl Stone of Kansas called at night

<sup>1</sup>January 1-July 14, 1862, is in a book bound in blind-stamped black leather with "M<sup>B</sup> BROWNING." in gilt on the cover. There are 100 blue pages, blue ruled, all filled.

†Wash-  
ington

Friday Jan'y 3. 1862 At work all day with correspondence  
&c

Saturday Jan'y 4. Snowing a little this morning but not very cold. About 10 A M went with Alex Sympson to the Presidents and to Majr Beckwith's office. I also called at Genl Meigs<sup>1</sup> and requested him to have Jacob R. Hollowbush Qr Master between Quincy & St Joseph and Dunlap Qr Master at Cairo watched as I had been informed they were both stealing<sup>2</sup>

\*Sunday Jan'y 5. Quite a cold day—Went to Dr Gurleys Church A M and not out again

In A M Jesse W Fell<sup>3</sup> of Illinois, and Mr Blakey of Kentucky called—\*In P M Runnion of Chicago, and Col Carpenter of Kentucky

\*Wash-  
ington

Monday Jan'y 6. 1862 An inch or two of snow this morning and tolerably cold. The Senate resumed business a quorum being present

\*Tuesday Jan'y 7. Busy in senate

Wednesday Jan'y 8. Went in the morning to the Presidents, and thence to the War department to see Genl Meigs on behalf of Sullivan, who had some claims, and on account of Hatch Qr Master at Cairo

He told me he had ordered Hatch under arrest for fraudulent practices †Took Dr Sam Rogers and Asbury with me this morning†

Thursday Jan'y 9 Nothing special

Wash-  
ington

Friday Jan'y 10, 1862 At 5 P. M. dined at Judge Wayne's

<sup>1</sup>For General Meigs, see *post*, 551 n. 1.

<sup>2</sup>December 20, 1861, the *Quincy Whig* had intimated that Hollowbush was guilty of fraud in buying horses on government account.

<sup>3</sup>Jesse W. Fell, 1808-1887. Came to Illinois in 1832, to Bloomington, 1833; was one of the founders of several Illinois towns, including Normal, for which he was influential in securing the State Normal University; appointed paymaster of the regular army in 1862, serving two years. He was an active Republican and close friend of Lincoln; it was to him that Lincoln gave the famous biography prepared for the campaign of 1860.

with Judge Nelson, Senator Foster,<sup>1</sup> Mr Blatchford<sup>2</sup> \*of New York, and Mr Peachy of California

Returned home at 9. through a very heavy fog—

Saturday Jan'y 11. At the Presidents and the War Department in the A. M. and in my Committee room writing letters P. M. Senator Foote of Vermont who has been absent a week or two returned last night bringing Mrs. Foote with him. They are of our mess

\*Sunday Jan'y 12 A very warm day. Went to Dr Gurleys Church in A. M. with dress coat & no overcoat. After night went to the Presidents in same way & returned at 9 perspiring freely with walking. Had long talk with the President about the war—He told me he was thinking of taking the field himself,<sup>3</sup> and suggested several plans of operation One was to threaten all their positions at the same time with superior force, and if they weakened one to strengthen another seize and hold the one weakened &<sup>4</sup>

Another was to shell them out of their intrenchments with guns that would throw very large shell over two miles—the enemy having none of that size Said Pensacola had gone to the Gulf to operate against New Orleans, and the movement from

Bowling Green

Cairo on Columbus was only a feint to aid Buell at Bowling Green<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lafayette S. Foster, 1806-1880. Senator from Connecticut, 1855 to 1867.

<sup>2</sup>Perhaps Samuel Blatchford, born in 1820, law partner of William H. Seward and later justice of the United States Supreme Court.

<sup>3</sup>In late December, 1861, McClellan became ill and remained so for some weeks. Because of the long inaction of the Union forces facing Richmond, Lincoln showed in January, 1862, a definite intention of taking the military situation into his own hands. His secretaries state that he studied military reports, read works of strategy, and held various conferences with generals. On January 27, 1862, the President issued "General War Order no. 1," directing a general forward movement to take place on February 22. This was disregarded, however, and Lincoln reluctantly relinquished his plan for a direct movement in favor of McClellan's peninsular campaign. Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln*, 5: 148-172; N. W. Stephenson, *Lincoln*, 221-243.

<sup>4</sup>An error. The reference is to General Don C. Buell, who conducted the Union campaign in Kentucky and occupied Bowling Green in February, 1862.

\*Monday Jan'y 13 To day the nomination of Mr. Stanton<sup>1</sup> as Secy of War was sent in, and the nomination of Mr Cameron as Minister to Russia

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday Jan'y 14, 1862. The Committee on Foreign relations met this morning, and unanimously agreed to report in favour of the confirmation of Mr Cameron, it having been refered to this committee

\*Wednesday Jan'y 15 Mr Sumner Chairman reported the nomination of Mr Cameron and asked its present consideration, but Trumbull objected, and it had to go on the Calendar. The Committee on Military affairs reported back the nomination of Mr Stanton as Secretary of War, recommending that it be confirmed which was done accordingly

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Jan'y 16. In executive session the nomination of Mr Cameron as Minister to Russia came up for consideration. It was opposed by Trumbull in a very bitter speech. This led to discussion, some pro and some con, and we continued in session till 7 P M and adjourned without coming to a vote \*Foster of Connecticut was speaking against confirmation at the time of adjournment

Friday Jan'y 17 In executive session the consideration of Mr Camerons nomination was resumed and Foster finished his speech. He also was very bitter. His and Trumbulls speeches both consisting in reading from the Van Wyck report<sup>2</sup> and reiterating the charges there made. \*Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Military affairs, and Fessenden Chairman of the Finance committee both showed that the charges were without

<sup>1</sup>Edwin M. Stanton, 1814-1869, served as United States attorney general December, 1860-March 4, 1861. He was appointed secretary of war January 12, 1862, serving throughout the war and continuing after the death of Lincoln. Refusing to resign at the request of President Johnson, August 5, 1867, he was suspended August 12, Grant being appointed *ad interim*, but was reinstated by the Senate January 13, 1868. He retired from the office May 26, 1868, was appointed associate justice of the United States Supreme Court December, 1869, but died the same month.

<sup>2</sup>The Van Wyck report was made by a committee appointed June 10, 1861, to inquire into government contracts. It is in *Reports of Committees*, 2 session, 37th Congress, number 2, volumes 1 and 2. It was severely critical of laxness in the War and Navy departments.



just foundation, and that whatever mistakes Cameron might have made in the administration of the war department there was nothing to fix suspicion upon his integrity

He was confirmed by a vote of 28 to 14

Saturday Jan'y 18 A rainy dismal day. Mr Seward sent me word yesterday he wished to see me, so after breakfast I went to the State Department. He wished to consult with me as to whether he should have the Editor of a German paper at Peoria Ills arrested and sent to Fort Warren. I advised in favor of it

He also read a long letter he had just written to Gov Washburn<sup>1</sup> of Maine in regard to the transportation of British troops over their Rail Road to Canada. He strongly and justly advocated it, and insisted that our intercourse with the British now should be conducted as heretofore. It was an able and wise paper.

At 12 O'clock Senators King, Foote, Doolittle and myself took a carriage and went to return the calls of the Cabinet officers and Foreign Ministers. We simply sent in our cards except at the French Ministers—There we went in and spent a half hour—Smoked a cigar and discussed the war

He expressed sentiments of great friendship for the United States, but I thought I could see underlying all Mr Mercier said, a lurking wish that this Country should never be reunited. In my opinion both France and England desire the success of the rebellion. At night Mrs Lincoln on whom we had called during the day, sent her carriage and I went up there and staid till 10 O'clock

I spent an hour or two in the Presidents room in conversation with him upon public affairs

He expressed great confidence in Genl. McClelland. Adj't Genl Thomas was poken of, he having been assailed in executive session the day before and charged with disloyalty.<sup>2</sup> The

<sup>1</sup>Governor Israel Washburn, 1813-1883. Member of House of Representatives, 1851-January 1, 1861; governor of Maine, 1861-1862; collector of customs at Portland, Maine, 1863-1867.

<sup>2</sup>Lorenzo Thomas was adjutant general at the time of the Civil War. It is barely possible that George H. Thomas was meant and that Browning confused the two men.

President said he did not believe there was a more loyal man in the Nation. Mr Seward had told me the same thing in the morning. Garrett Davis<sup>1</sup> Senator from Kentucky, came in whilst I was with the President and in conversation upon the subject of slavery said that to save the Union he was willing, if necessary, to see slavery wiped out. Still he is very sensitive upon the subject

Wash-  
ington

Sunday Jan'y 19. 1862 Raining all day. Attended Dr Sunderlands Church in the morning, and not out again

\*Monday Jan'y 20 Occupied in the Senate upon a resolution to expel Bright of Indiana for treason.<sup>2</sup> The argument was not concluded and the case went over till tomorrow

\*Tuesday Jan'y 21 In the morning went with Jack Grimshaw & his brother to the War Department in reference to Hatchs arrest. Also called at the Presidents

The Senate was occupied with the consideration of Brights case. Sumner and Lane of Indiana spoke against him. He spoke for himself

Weather drisly & dismal

\*Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Jan'y 22. 1862 After the morning hour in the Senate Garrett Davis had the floor on Brights case and spoke against him till we went into executive session The nomination of Swain<sup>3</sup> of Ohio for Justice of the Supreme Court in the place of Judge McLean was sent in and refered to the committee on the Judiciary

\*Thursday Jan'y 23. After morning hour Garret Davis consumed the time till we went into Executive session, nominally on Brights case

<sup>1</sup>Garrett Davis, 1801-1872. Senator from Kentucky, 1861-1872; voted often with the minority in opposition to severe war measures.

<sup>2</sup>On February 5, 1862, the Senate voted to expel Jesse D. Bright, senator from Indiana, for disloyalty, the charge being based on a letter to Jefferson Davis concerning the efforts of a friend "to dispose of what he regards a great improvement in fire-arms." *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 2 session, 651.

<sup>3</sup>Noah H. Swayne, 1804-1884.

\*Friday Jany 24 Discussion of Brights case continued by Cowan, Harris, Ten Eyke and Clark Then had an executive session and confirmed Swain for Judge

Washington Saturday Jany 25. 1862 An inch or two of coarse, crusted snow this morning—An exceedingly sloppy day. Walked to Mr. Carrolls to breakfast. After breakfast spent an hour with the President Then went with Grimshaw to the War Department on Hatch's case—then with Richardson to Treasury to ask an office for Edwards of Shawneetown—Then by myself to Surgeon Genls to see about facilitating discharge of disabled soldiers—Then to the Post Office Department to ask a Clerkship—Then to Brown's Hotel to call on Judge Huntington<sup>1</sup>—Then to National Hotel to call on Jno B Huston & wife of Kentucky—Then to my room in the Capitol and wrote letters till dinner—Then shaved and took a bath and it was night After tea Mr Thomas Ewing of Ohio, Britton Hill of St Louis, Senators Cowan, Doolittle & myself<sup>2</sup> went into Sheffields room, and got to discussion international law—our Foreign relations—the Secretary of State &c. Ewing was very much dissatisfied with Mr Swards diplomacy, and said he had insulted every foreign power since he came into office. I enquired whether that resulted from want of sense and discretion, or whether he supposed the Secy had some motive in doing designedly. He, Ewing, replied that it resulted from the fact that Seward was not a gentleman, but a low, vulgar, vain demagogue.

Washington He also gave it as his opinion that England would recognize the Southern Confederacy, and sieze New Orleans in two weeks from the present time That France would then sieze Sardinia, and Russia Finmark

\*Sunday Jany 26 Attended Dr Gurleys Church in the morning. Rode home with Mrs Bates and Miss Matilda and not out again

<sup>1</sup>Perhaps Elisha M. Huntington, 1806-1862, judge of United States District Court of Indiana, 1842-1862.

<sup>2</sup>Ewing, Browning, Hill and Cowan were later associated in a law partnership.

Monday Jan'y 27 Senate in session engaged in consideration of Bright's case. Latham made a speech in vindication of him  
At night I went to the Presidents with enrolled bills

\*Tuesday Jan'y 28 Spent the day upon a bill relating to Rail Roads & Telegraph lines

\*Wednesday Jan'y 29 Senate occupied with the consideration of Brights' case. Saulsbury, Garret Davis & Bright spoke

\*Wash-  
ington

Thursday Jan'y 30. 1862 Senate in session until about 5 p. m. I went to Senator Lathams to dinner at 6 p. m. The company consisted of Senators Harris, Kennedy<sup>1</sup> & Rice,<sup>2</sup> besides myself and Latham—Secretaries Smith & Blair—Judges of the Supreme Court Wayne and Swayne, Baron Stockel<sup>3</sup> the Russian Minister, and several other gentlemen. Rice brought me home in his carriage at 10 O'clock

Friday Jan'y. 31. McDougall, Johnson & Foster, all spoke on the bright case to day against him, and Kennedy for him.

At night went to the Presidents with enrolled bill, and to get some position for Cyrus Edwards—Then went with Senators King and Doolittle to a party at Mr Swards. Quite a brilliant affair

\*Wash-  
ington

Saturday Feb'y 1 1862 Snowed last night, and slush and sloop all day. Raining in the forenoon \*After breakfast went to the War & State Departments Wrote letters and franked documents the rest of the day

\*Sunday Feb'y 2. At Dr Gurley's Church in the forenoon and not out again

\*Monday Feb'y 3, Snowing—Senate went into executive session at 1 p. m and continued till 5.

Tuesday Feb'y 4 Engaged on Brights case—I made a speech against followed by Foster & others on same side—Willey of Va.

<sup>1</sup>Anthony Kennedy, 1811-1892. United States senator from Maryland, 1857-1863.

<sup>2</sup>Henry M. Rice, 1816-1894. Delegate from the Territory of Minnesota as a Democrat, 1853-1857; United States senator, May 12, 1858, to March 3, 1863.

<sup>3</sup>Baron Edouard de Stoeckl was at this time Russian minister at Washington.



for him—Sumner agt him \*At night at the Presidents with Carl Schurtz<sup>1</sup> & Col Boswell of Mississippi

\*Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Feby 5. 1862 Continued the Bright case. He delivered a written speech very much modified in tone from one he made last week. Upon examing the Globe for the speech of last week in which he declared he would now repeat the act under the same circumstances, and that he was, as he always had been, opposed to all coercive measures by the Government to put down the rebellion, I could not find it, and was told by the man connected with the Globe that he, Bright, had suppressed it. At the conclusion of the speaking a vote was taken and he expelled 32 for 14 against

At night I attended a party at the Presidents—a very large and very brilliant one. Did not get home till 2 Oclock in the morning

\*Wash-  
ington

Thursday Feby 6. 1862 In Senate all day

Friday Feby 7 Same as yesterday

Saturday Feby 8 At Presidents. War Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> Auditors, Comms Genl. Surgeon Genls, Post Office—Got back at 2½ and wrote letters till dinner

\*Sunday Feby 9 At Dr Gurleys Church in the morning and not out again

\*Monday Feby 10 In Senate until after 4 p. m. Lieut M. D. Hardin called to see me at night.

Tuesday Feby 11 In Senate until late. After tea went with Sheffield to the Presidents—Genl. McClellan came in whilst there. He said but little. Does not seem to me big enough for his position

\*Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Feby 12. 1862 In Senate until after 7 p. m.

The bill making Treasury notes a tender under consideration. Collamer made a powerful speech against both the constitutionality and expediency

I cannot believe that Congress has power to make any thing but gold and silver a tender in payment of debts, and if it had I

<sup>1</sup>Carl Schurz, 1829-1906. The famous German-American leader and major general in the Civil War.

believe it would injure the credit of the Country to do so, and I shall therefore feel constrained to vote against the bill

Thursday Feby 13 At 11 A. M. took the cars to Philadelphia on my way to Pittsburg to meet Mrs Browning & Emma. Reached Philadelphia at 5½ P. M. and remained at Continental Hotel till 11 at night when I took the cars for Pittsburg—Went to bed and slept.

\*Pitts-  
burg

Friday Feby 14. 1862 Breakfasted at Altona at 8 A. M. Reached Pittsburg at 1½ P. M. and stopped at the Monongahela House. \*Had telegram from I. M. Rice from Chicago saying Mrs Browning would leave there at 6 O'clock this morning

\*Saturday Feby 15 At 3 O'clock this morning went to depot and met Mrs Browning, Emma and servant girl Deshazer, accompanied by James Rice

All went to Monongahela House. After breakfast Col Symington's Carriage came for us, and we went to his house at the Arsenal.

After dinner I visited all the work shops with the Col—Large amount of military munitions, arms, equipments &° going on

\*Pitts-  
burg &  
Phila :

Sunday Feby 16, 1862 At Col Symingtons till after tea—then returned to Monongahela House

Monday Feby 17 At 6 this morning took the cars for Philadelphia where we arrived at 12 Oclock at night—Stopped at the Continental Hotel

Tuesday Feby 18 At 11 A. M. took the cars for Washington, arriving there at 6 P. M. All went to my boarding House at Mrs Carters on Capitol Hill

Wednesday Feby 19 Attending the Senate

Thursday Feby 20 President Lincoln's son William died at 5 P. M. They sent their carriage for us and Mrs B and I went there & staid all night

Wash-  
ington

Friday, Feb 21. 1862 The Presidents youngest Son is very ill, and they would not consent for Mrs Browning to leave them this morning I remained till 12 Oclock—then came to the Capitol leaving Mrs Browning there \*Returned at night and sat up part of night

\*Saturday Feby 22 At 1 O'clock P. M. the Senate proceeded to the Hall of the House, where Washingtons Farewell address was read in the presence of both Houses by Col. Forney, Secy of the Senate. \*The Senate then returned to its chamber, and was in session till 4. P. M.

At night I returned to the Presidents and again sat up part of the night with his little son

Sunday Feby 23. 1862 Came to my lodgings after breakfast, and took Emma to the Presidents with me where she remained all day & night.

In P. M. took the Presidents Carriage and drove out to Georgetown with Mr Carroll to examine his vault which he had offered for the use of the Presidents Son, who is to be deposited there tomorrow.

\*Monday Feby 24. The funeral of the Presidents son took place today at 2 P M in the East Room—Rev Dr Gurley officiating

After the services the body was taken to the cemetery at Georgetown to be deposited in Mr Carroll's vault, and left, for the time being, in the little chapel in the cemetery The President, his son Robert, Senator Trumbull & myself rode out in the Presidents carriage After return from Cemetery I brought Emma home to Mrs Carters to dinner—Found Mrs Col Symington of Pittsburgh there. After tea I returned to the Presidents and Mrs B & I sat up with Tad till after 2 O'clock in the morning.

Tuesday Feby 25 Breakfasted at the Presidents—then came to Senate.

\*After dinner returned to the Presidents and remained all night At 6-7 & 9 P M went in Prests carriage to Rail Road depot to meet Mrs Edwards of Springfield, Illinois—She was on the 9 Oclock train

Wednesday Feby 26 Left the Presidents and came to Mrs Carters to breakfast Mrs. Browning returned in the afternoon In Senate all day

Thursday Feby 27, 1862 Miss Symington of Baltimore arrived this morning After breakfast took Mrs Browning and Emma thro' the Capitol \*In Senate all day

\*Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Friday Feby 28 In Senate

\*Wash-  
ington

Saturday March 1 1862 Spent forenoon in visiting the Presidents and various departments—Afternoon at work with correspondence

\*Sunday March 2. Mrs Browning & myself, Mrs & Miss Symington, Mr Rice & Lieut Hardin attending preaching by Rev Mr Stockton at the Hall of House Rep: Snow fell in afternoon & evening.

Monday March 3.

[*Passage referring to Mrs. Lincoln omitted.*]

\*Tuesday March 4 At night went with Mrs Col Symington of Pittsburg, and Miss Symington of Baltimore, and called on the President

\*Wednesday March 5

Thursday March 6

Friday March 7 Busy in the Senate

Saturday March 8 Busy at Departments all the forenoon. In the afternoon went out with Mrs Browning making calls.

Sunday March 9. At 10 O'clock A. M. the President sent his carriage down for Mrs Browning, Emma and myself—We went up. I went directly to the Presidents and found the Secretary of War, with a telegram in his hand from Fortress Monroe giving information the Rebel Iron Clad steamer had come down from Norfolk, and sunk the Cumberland, and captured the Congress—Mr Seward and Genl. McClelland soon came in. They all seemed a good deal excited, but Mr Seward said nothing. There were apprehensions that the Merrimac might come here & destroy the Town, but none of the persons present knew her draft of water. It was also apprehended that she might get out to sea and destroy all our transports now on their way to Annapolis with supplies, and also Annapolis with all our accumulations of stores &c

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

The President and myself got in his carriage and drove to the Navy yard to see Capt Dahlgren<sup>1</sup>—took him in the carriage and carried him to the White House with us.

<sup>1</sup>John A. Dahlgren, 1809-1870. Inventor of the Dahlgren gun. He later saw active naval service in the Civil War.



He said there was nothing to prevent the Merrimac from coming here as she drew only 21 feet water, and any vessel drawing not more than 22 feet could come here. He also said she could go to New York, lie off the City, and levy contributions at will

\*When we got back to the White House I left the President and Capt Dahlgren, who went to the Presidents office where there were several members of the Cabinet, and various Genl's and Commodores—I went to Dr Gurley's Church After my return from Church Secretary Stanton met me in the Hall opening into the Presidents Office—we walked to the end of the Hall, and talked for sometime. He told me that he had telegraphed to New York to have an iron Clad boat, with a powerful Engine, immediately constructed, at whatever cost, to run down and sink the Merrimac. That he also had sent a steamer down the Potomac to give notice of the approach of the Merrimac if she should attempt to come up, and had 30 canal boats loading with stone to be sunk in the Channel of the River about 40 miles below the City, in the event of the Merrimac attempting to ascend the River

He spoke in terms which clearly indicated his want of confidence in McClelland—said Genl Cass had written to try one after another of the Genls till he found one equal to the emergency, and that he wished to do so Try one, and if we wouldn't do try another &c At 5 P M Mrs Browning, Emma and myself returned to our lodgings

\*Monday March 10. I addressed the Senate today between two and three hours upon Trumbulls confiscation bill<sup>1</sup> Genl &

<sup>1</sup>In this speech in opposition to the bill for the confiscation of "rebel" property, Browning argued for a merciful attitude, declaring that his heart still warmed for his "brethren of the South." In brief, his argument was that the law of nations forbade such a sweeping confiscation in case the conflict should be deemed a public war, but that if the insurrection theory be adopted, and the "rebels" be regarded as insurgent citizens, then the bill would be unconstitutional, since it amounted to an attainder. His argument was, however, greatly modified by a statement of the distinction between powers of legislation and war powers, for he urged that, as a war power, the government had the right to confiscate the property of those in armed rebellion, and that no legislation was necessary to convey such right. In the course of his speech he offered a guarded hint as to the arming of the slaves, while disclaiming any purpose to incite slave insurrection. The speech fills seventeen columns of the record. *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 2 session, part 2, pp. 1136-1141.

Miss Ripley<sup>1</sup> called at night

\*Tuesday March 11. Carlises<sup>2</sup> addressed the Senate on the Confiscation bill \*After dinner Mrs Browning and I rode to the Presidents—I to lay a bill before him, and she did not get out of the carriage

\*Wednesday March 12 Spent all the forenoon at the Departments with Head, Boone and Durant trying to get their claims agt the State of Illinois paid Went to Presidents at night

Wash-  
ington

Thursday March 13, 1862 Immediately after breakfast went with James Rice to Willards Hotel to see Genl Hunter, but he was not in. Rice left for home in the afternoon.

\*Friday March 14 Republican Senators have had a series of caucuses in regard to Trumbulls Confiscation bill—many of us desiring the bill and all the amendments offered thereto to be referred to a committee to consider the whole subject, and prepare a bill upon which we could all agree, but this morning the ultras voted us down, and determined to proceed with the discussion in the Senate. The vote in caucus stood 11 to 10. Those in favor of reference were Collamer, Cowan, Fessenden,<sup>3</sup> Howe,<sup>4</sup> Sherman,<sup>5</sup> Simmons,<sup>6</sup> Ten Eyck,<sup>7</sup> Foster, Anthony & Browning

<sup>1</sup>James W. Ripley, 1794-1870; at this time chief of ordnance.

<sup>2</sup>John S. Carlile, 1817-1878. Member of House of Representatives from Virginia, 1855-1857, July 4-13, 1861, resigning to become senator in place of R. M. T. Hunter, withdrawn.

<sup>3</sup>William Pitt Fessenden, 1806-1869. Whig representative from Maine, 1841-1843; United States senator, Whig, then Republican, 1854-1864; appointed secretary of the treasury to succeed Chase, serving July 1, 1864-March 3, 1865; again elected senator, serving March 4, 1865, to his death.

<sup>4</sup>Timothy O. Howe, 1816-1883. Moved to Wisconsin, 1845; judge of the circuit and supreme courts, 1850-1855; United States senator, 1861-1869; one of the delegates to the International Monetary Conference in Paris, 1881; appointed postmaster general in 1881.

<sup>5</sup>John Sherman, 1823-1900. Congressman from Ohio, 1855-1861; senator, 1861-1877, 1881-1897; secretary of the treasury under President Hayes and secretary of state under McKinley until April 25, 1898, on the outbreak of the war with Spain. Author of *Recollections of Forty Years*, published 1895.

<sup>6</sup>James Fowler Simmons, 1795-1864. United States senator from Rhode Island, 1841-1847, 1857-1862.

<sup>7</sup>John C. Ten Eyck, 1814-1879. Republican senator from New Jersey, 1859-1865.

Wash-  
ington

Saturday March 15. 1862 At Presidents in the morning—then with Head, Durant, Boone & Woodruff to the War Department. At work with Correspondence the rest of the day Rained heavily nearly all day.

\*Sunday March 16 Emma and I at Dr Sunderlands Church in the forenoon—Not out again. †Hon J. O. Norton called to see me in P. M.†<sup>1</sup>

\*Monday March 17. In Senate all day

Tuesday March 18. In Senate. \*At night called on Genl Hunter to get Jas Rice on his staff. He promised

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday March 19. In Senate—At 6 P. M. went to the Presidents and had a talk with him. During the conversation he told me that only a few days before Mr Vanderbilt of New York called to see him, and said substantially Mr President, last summer I proposed to the Navy Department to give the Government the ship which bears my name, the Vanderbilt, but they declined to accept her. She is the best ship in the world. I superintended her building, and know every piece of timber in her. I know all about ships, and she is the best ship in the world. I can afford to give \$5,000,000 to put down this rebellion, & have come to renew to you the offer of the Vanderbilt. I wish to give her to the Government The President answered we will take her. Vanderbilt then said "I have another ship, the next best one in the world. I will have her completely iron armored, if you desire it, and when she is done you shall pay me a reasonable price for her, I charging nothing for my personal services, in superintending her completion" He was authorised by the Secretary of war to go on and complete her as, and on the terms proposed<sup>2</sup>

Wash-  
ington

I had met Peter Peckham and a Mr Taylor at the Presidents to give them an opportunity of exhibiting to the President, a

<sup>1</sup>Jesse Olds Norton, of Joliet, Illinois. See *Illinois Historical Collections*, 14: 972.

<sup>2</sup>This is an allusion to a most interesting incident. March 15, 1862, the Secretary of War had telegraphed Vanderbilt asking him for what sum he could prevent the Confederate ironclad *Merrimac* from getting out of Norfolk. Vanderbilt had come on to Washington. He offered the

newly invented fuse which they wished to give the government the benefit of. They came into his room, and exhibited the fuse and its operations, and I left them with him

Thursday March 20 After breakfast went to the War Department to get James M Rice appointed on Genl Hunters staff—Busy in Senate

Friday 21 In Senate all day

Wash-  
ington

Saturday March 22 1862 Occupied all the forenoon at the departments. Engaged in bringing up correspondence in afternoon After dinner called to see Senator Rice of Minn: who has been kept away several days by hemorage of the lungs. Found him better

\*Sunday March 23 At Dr Gurley's Church A M and P. M.

Monday March 24 Emma started to school this morning to Mrs Burr in North C Street \*In Senate all day. In the evening Mrs Browning and I called at Senator Rice's, he being unwell with hemorage of the lungs.

Tuesday March 25 Dr Stanley & Chas Catlin of Quincy called this morning. In Senate all day.

\*Wash-  
ington  
Wednes-  
day

Wednesday March 26, 1862 In Senate all day. Mr Robt Buchanan of Cincinnati called to see us at night

Thursday March 27. In Senate. \*At night, in company with Senators Foote, King and Judge Norton of Illinois, attended reception at Mr Speaker Grows

\*Friday March 28. In Senate. At night went to Presidents and had a short interview with him

Saturday March 29 In forenoon at the Departments. In P. M. out calling with Mrs Browning—Snowing all the afternoon

---

President the *Vanderbilt*, the intention being that she should operate under Vanderbilt's immediate direction to be used as a ram against the *Merrimac*. Apparently this use was never made of her and she was assigned on account of her speed to endeavor to capture the fast Confederate commerce destroyers. See *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*, series I, 7: 129, 144-146, 148-149.



Sunday March 30 An inch or so of snow this morning but soon disappeared At Dr Sunderland's Church in A. M. Not out again

Wash-  
ington

Monday March 31. 1862 In the morning spent an hour or so showing Mrs Browning and Mr & Mrs Goodell of Quincy about the Capitol \*In Senate all day

\*Tuesday Apl 1<sup>st</sup> In Senate all day. At 6 P M went to P M Genl Blairs to dinner. Hon Reverdy Johnson Gov Wickliffe, Gov Crittenden Garrett Davis—& others of the Company—Had much conversation with Mr Johnson, who told me many anecdotes of Luther Martin, William Pinckney, and distinguished men of England whose acquaintance he had made and whose society he had enjoyed when in England

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Apl 2. 1862 Mrs Browning and Emma went this morning to Mount Vernon, with a party from the Presidents

\*I was in the Senate all day At night I went up to the Presidents and had a talk with him about Genl McClelland whose loyalty is beginning to be questioned in some quarters I asked him if he still had confidence in McClellands fidelity. He assured me he had, and that he had never had any reason to doubt it. That he had now gone to Fortress Monroe with his Command, with orders to move on Richmond without delay, and that only on yesterday when McClelland came to take leave of him preparatory to marching, he shed tears when speaking of the cruel imputations upon his loyalty, and defending himself against them The President added that Genl Scott, and all the leading military men around him, had always assured him that McClelland possessed a very high order of military talent, and that he did not think they could all be mistaken—yet he was not fully satisfied with his conduct of the war—that he was not sufficiently energetic and aggressive in his measures—that he had studied McClelland and taken his measure as well as he could—that he thought he had the capacity to make arrangements properly for a great conflict, but as the hour for action approached he became nervous and oppressed with the responsibility and hesitated to meet the crisis, but that he had given him peremptory orders to

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

move now, and he must do it. \*Whilst we were in conversation Mr Secretary Stanton came in.

Wash-  
ington

Supposing he had private business I proposed to leave, but both he and the President insisted that I should remain, and I did so. Stanton then commenced a conversation about McClelland, saying that there was a very general distrust of his loyalty growing up in the Country. He then took from his pocket a letter, which he said he had just received from one of the first men of the Nation, who was known to both the President and myself, but whose name he would not mention, and read from it a passage stating that McClelland some time in 1860 had been initiated as a Knight of the Golden Circle by Jeff Davis—that Davis still had great power and influence over him, and that he would do nothing against the rebels which would be inconsistent with his obligations as a Knight of the golden Circle, and that disaster would come upon us as long as he was continued in the Command. Stanton added that he did not believe these\* imputations of disloyalty, but they were believed extensively and did us injury<sup>1</sup> When we left the President Stanton took me in his carriage and brought me home. As we rode down the Avenue he expressed the opinion that McClelland ought to have been removed long ago, and a fear that he was not in earnest, and said

<sup>1</sup>From various sources suggestions may be derived connecting McClelland with the treasonable organization known as the "Knights of the Golden Circle." In the diary of Edward Bates, under date of October 28, 1864, there is inserted a pamphlet entitled "*General McClellan's Record: His Sympathy with the South—Read for Yourselves.*" This pamphlet consists of twelve pages and is made up of communications from various parties denouncing McClellan as a traitor and comparing him with Benedict Arnold. Says a correspondent of the *Cincinnati Times*, October 20, 1864: "It is rumored that McClellan is known to be a member of the . . . Knights of the Golden Circle and that after due deliberation by that order they decided that Mac should fight for the South on free soil, that Mac said he never intended to order an engagement . . . that Mac received Rebel letters during the engagement at Antietam and was in Lee's lines," etc. On the same date Bates pastes in his diary a newspaper clipping which is evidently taken from the *Cincinnati Times*. It is a communication to "Mr. Editor," signed by Edgar Conkling and dated Cincinnati, October 24, 1864. The writer mentions the "conclusive testimony . . . of General McClellan's treason," and demands a full publication of the facts in order to defeat the "election of the traitor to the Presidency." Bates writes this comment in the margin: "These fierce denunciations do no good, but great harm. McClellan has faults enough, both negative and affirmative, and his party is in the same

that he did not think he could emancipate himself from the influence of Jeff Davis, and feared he was not willing to do any thing calculated greatly to damage the cause of secession, \*and that if I would propose to the President to appoint Col N B Buford of Illinois, a Majr Genl. and give him the Command of the army here he would second my application.

He said that when McDowell was appointed he was greatly dissatisfied—thought him unfit for the place, and when he lost the battle of Bull Run he denounced him fiercely; but since he became Secy of War, and had had much official communication with McDowell, and heard his explanations of the battle of Bull Run he was satisfied he had done him injustice, and with shame for having said it, he took back all he had said That he was now satisfied that he was an able officer, more able than any on the Potomac, and an earnest, gallant man intent upon doing his duty &c

Thursday Apl 3. 1862 Mrs Browning went today, with Mrs Dr Harris, to Alexandria to visit the soldiers in the Hospital

\*Received intelligence of the accidental shooting of Capt Delano, which will probably result in his death. Telegraphed to have him brought to my house for interment, and buried in my lot in the cemetery S. C. Sherman of Quincy here to day. †In Senate all day†—

---

condition. These charges of treachery and treason, not well established by proof, do but take off the edge from other accusations which cannot be defended, thus discrediting the best-founded objections against him, and exciting a popular sympathy for him as a persecuted man." It should be added that membership in the Knights of the Golden Circle, if such membership antedated the Civil War, would not necessarily imply treason. A convention of the "Knights," held at Raleigh, N. C., in May, 1860, issued an *Address to Citizens of the Southern States*, which shows that the order originated at Lexington, Ky., July 4, 1854, and that its early purpose was to combat emigrant aid societies and similar abolition activities, to anticipate the North in the settlement of Mexico, and to acquire that country for the purpose of increasing the area of the South which otherwise could no longer hope to obtain beneficial laws through Congress. For the privilege of examining the diary of Edward Bates in manuscript the editors are indebted to the courtesy of Miss Helen Nicolay, of Washington, D. C. The *Address to Citizens of the Southern States*, issued by order of a convention of the Knights of the Golden Circle, Raleigh, N. C., May 7-11, 1860, is to be found among the broadsides in the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, Washington.

Friday Apl 4. In Senate. At night went to Presidents, and had interview with him—

\*Saturday Apl 5. At war Department A. M. In P. M. calling with Mrs Browning.

\*At night at the Presidents to see him

Wash-  
ington

Sunday Apl 6, 1862 President sent his carriage in the morn-  
~~Satur~~  
ing, and Mrs Browning, Emma, Jno Watts<sup>1</sup> and myself went to Dr Gurleys Church. At night I went to the Presidents and had an interview with him Then called on Mrs Edwards in the Blue Room

Monday Apl 7. In Senate. Commenced snowing towards night. Nellie Bushnell arrived this evening

\*Tuesday Apl 8. In Senate—At Presidents at night—Snowing—

Wednesday Apl 9 Snowing all day—In Senate. During the morning at Presidents and Departments—Heard news of victory at Pittsburg Tennessee. At night again at Presidents. He went with me to War Department to get news of the battle

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Apl 10 At Navy Department with Bestor about Contracts for building boats

Then went to Presidents, but he was sick and in bed, and I did not see him. \*Went up again at night, and sat with him an hour or more. He was comfortable and in very good spirits—having been out riding in the evening.

He told me he was becoming impatient and dissatisfied with McClellan's sluggishness of action, and read me a letter he had written him in reply to his demand for more troops, in which he talked to him in exceeding plain terms about his delay's and urged upon him the indispensable necessity of his striking a blow if he expected to maintain his character before the Country<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>John S. Watts was associate justice of the United States Court in New Mexico from 1851 to 1856, delegate in Congress from New Mexico, and later chief justice of the territory.

<sup>2</sup>Browning probably refers to Lincoln's letter to McClellan, dated April 9, 1862, which is given in G. B. McClellan, *McClellan's Own Story* (New York, 1887), 276-278.



Wash-  
ington

Friday Apl 11. 1862 Bright, but rather cool day. In Senate  
—\*Quite unwell at night with high fever

Saturday Apl 12 At Departments in forenoon. In after-  
noon went with Mrs Browning & Miss Nellie Bushnell calling

Sunday Apl 13 Took medicine last night, and remained at  
home to day. Mrs Edwards came down from the Presidents and  
went from our room to the Capitol to preaching

At night I went to the Presidents, to get him to go with me  
<sup>and</sup>  
to the Secretary of War to get a pass for Rev Mr Emery of  
Quincy, and others to visit our Camps and Hospitals—He was  
already at the War Department. I followed and got the pass  
from Mr Stanton—There an hour.

Wash-  
ington

Monday Apl 14, 1862 In Senate. At night went to Presi-  
dents to lay before him the bill to abolish slavery in the District  
of Columbia. Had a talk with him. He told me he would sign  
the bill, but would return it with a special message recommend-  
ing a supplemental bill making savings in behalf of infants &  
and also some other amendments.

Wash-  
ington

He further told me he regretted the bill had been passed in  
its present form—that it should have been for gradual emancipa-  
tion—that now families would at once be deprived of cooks,  
stable boys & and they of their protectors without any provision  
for them. He further told me that he would not sign the bill  
before Wednesday—That old Gov Wickliffe had two family serv-  
ants with him who were sickly, and who would not be benefitted  
by freedom, and wanted time to remove them, but could not get  
them out of the City until Wednesday, and that the Gov had come  
<sup>before</sup>  
frankly to him and asked for time. He added to me that this  
was told me in the strictest confidence

\*Tuesday Apl 15—In Senate. At Presidents at night

Wednesday Apl 16 In Senate all day. Went at night to the  
Presidents with Miss Nellie Bushnell

\*Thursday Apl 17 In Senate all day

Friday Apl 18 In Senate all day. President came down to his room and sent for me to talk about Berrets nomination under District bill

Wash-  
ington

Saturday Apl 19. 1862 At War Department in A M. In my room at work in P. M. Mrs B went to Dr Gurleys Church at 4 P M

\*Sunday Apl 20, 1862 Mrs Browning, Miss Bushnell, Emma and myself went to Dr Gurleys Church. At night I went to the Presidents and had a long talk with him about the condition of things at York Town and Corinth

War Department

\*Monday Apl 21. In Senate all day. At the ~~Presidents~~ at night with Latham and Ihrie to get something for Ihrie

Tuesday Apl 22 In Senate all day

Wednesday Apl 23 In Senate all day

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Apl 24 1862 In Senate—Judge Collamer addressed the Senate against Trumbull's Confiscation bill, \*and I took the floor for tomorrow at 1 O'clock

Wash-  
ington

Friday Apl 25. Before the hour for calling up the Confiscation bill arrived we went into executive session, and continued to do executive business till \*after 4 P. M. At night I went to the Presidents. He was alone and complaining of head ache. Our conversation turned upon poetry, and each of us quoted a few lines from Hood. He asked me if I remembered the Haunted House. I replied that I had never read it. He rang his bell—sent for Hood's poems and read the whole of it to me, pausing occasionally to comment on passages which struck him as particularly felicitous His reading was admirable and his criticisms evinced a high and just appreciation of the true spirit of poetry. He then sent for another volume of the same work, and read me the "lost heir", and then the "Spoilt Child" the humour of both of which he greatly enjoyed. I remained with about an hour & a half, and left high in high spirits, and a very genial mood; but as he said a crowd was buzzing <sup>they</sup> about the door like bees, ready to pounce upon him as soon as I

should take my departure, and bring him back to a realization of the annoyances and harrassments of his position.

Saturday Apl 26 At the Departments A. M. and at my correspondence in P M. At night Atto Genl Bates called \* & remained with us till 11 O'Clock

Wash-  
ington

Sunday Apl 27, 1862 Miss Nellie Bushnell, Emma, Jno Watts, Jas Doolittle and myself went to Dr Gurleys Church in the morning. Not out again

Monday Apl 28. In Senate—In Executive session all day.

Spoke

At night Mrs Browning Miss Nellie Bushnell & myself called at Mr Carrolls & took tea, and the called at P M Genl Blairs.

Tuesday Apl 29 I spoke 2½ hours to day in the Senate on the Confiscation bill<sup>1</sup>

Wednesday Apl 30 In Senate. At night Mrs Browning, Miss Bushnell and myself went to party at Mr Secy Swards

Wash-  
ington

Thursday May 1, 1862 In Senate. Mr & Miss Carroll, Mrs Griffin & Mrs Dr Lansdell spent the evening with us.

Friday May 2. In Senate. At night went to the Presidents and spent an hour with him in his family room—He had the head ache and was not in his office

\*Saturday May 3 The finest day of the season. Mrs Browning had made up a party for Mount Vernon—Capt Dahlgren had placed the government steamer Mount Washington at her disposal, and obtained permission for her to land at Mt Vernon. At 1 P. M. the party consisting of about 30 persons embarked at the navy yard. We ran down in about an hour and a half, anchored out in the stream and landed in life boats—Visited the

<sup>1</sup>Browning's speech appears in the *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 2 session, part 2, pp. 1856-1861. For his opposition to Trumbull on the matter of confiscation Browning was generally denounced in the Republican press of his state, but he received praise from various sources. The *Illinois State Register* (Democratic) made the following comment under date of May 6, 1862: "Mr. Browning . . . has the lofty manliness to unmask his pestilent colleague . . . We regret that we have not space for all of his speech delivered in the senate on the 29th ult. It is the most eloquent and most able of his life. He annihilates Trumbull and all his constitution-hating band."

Wash-  
ington

tomb old and new—the house passing through the different rooms—the garden, walked about the grounds some and reem-barked just in time to get home at night. The day was delightful, and nothing occurred to mar the pleasure of the trip—This was my first visit there.

\*Sunday May 4 Mrs Browning & I went to Church at Dr Sunderlands in the morning—Not out again—Miss Nellie & Emma went to the capitol.

Monday May 5. After tea Mrs Browning, Miss Bushnell and myself called at the Prèsidents. He was out and Mrs Lincoln was sick, so we saw neither of them. We then went to Mr Swards and spent an hour very pleasantly. Met Truman Smith<sup>1</sup> there—My first acquaintance with him.

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday May 6, 1862 In Senate all day. At night Mrs Browning, Miss Bushnell & myself called at Senator Rice's & Dr Gurley's—and Miss Nellie & I at Mr Carroll's. I also went to the Presidents, but he was not at home having gone to Fortress Monroe the night before.

\*Wednesday May 7. In Senate all day. At Presidents at night. He not yet returned

Thursday May 8. In Senate all day. Mr Lorenzo Bull of Quincy arrived this morning, and stopped with us at Mrs Carters. After dinner all took a walk in the Capitol grounds.

Friday May 9 In Senate till 4 P M

\*Wash-  
ington

Saturday May 10, 1862 At Lamon's, the War Department and the Presidents in forenoon. President not yet returned from Fortress Monroe. At work in my room at the Capitol in P. M.

Sunday May 11 Mr Bull, Judge Norton & myself went to Dr Gurley's Church in the morning. At night I went to the Presidents but he had not yet returned from Fortress Monroe.

Monday May 12. Miss Nellie Bushnell, who has been with us five weeks, left to day—also Mr Bull of Quincy. In Senate all day.

<sup>1</sup>Truman Smith, 1791-1884. United States senator from Connecticut from 1849 to 1854.



Tuesday May 13 In Senate all day. Mrs Sheffield of New Port Rhode Island, left to day. Genl Boyle of Ky.<sup>1</sup> called on me during the day

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday May 14, 1862 In Senate all day. At night went to the Presidents and had a long talk with him about his expedition to York Town, Fortress Monroe &c He gave me all the details and particulars of his trip and what he did. He sent Commodore Rodgers<sup>2</sup> up James River with a fleet after having had a struggle with Goldsborough on the subject. He also devised and Caused to be executed the March upon York Town under Wool<sup>3</sup> which resulted in its Capture—having, himself, the day before explored the Coast and found a landing place for the troops

\*Thursday May 15. In Senate all day

Friday May 16 In Senate through the day, and at Presidents with Cowan at night

Wash-  
ington

Saturday May 17. 1862 At the Departments in forenoon, and out calling with Mrs Browning & P. M. Called at Miss Caldwell's, & then Mrs Sammons went with us to Genl. Franklin's.<sup>4</sup> We afterwards called at Sec'y Stantons.

<sup>1</sup>Jeremiah Tilford Boyle, a Kentucky Unionist, who on the outbreak of the war was made brigadier general of the United States Volunteers; military governor of Kentucky, 1862-1864.

<sup>2</sup>John Rodgers, 1812-1882, held the rank of commander at the time of the expedition up the James. On his capture of the Confederate iron-clad *Atlanta*, June 17, 1863, promoted to the rank of commodore; became a rear admiral, 1869; was superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory, 1877-1882, his services contributing greatly to the advancement of astronomical science.

<sup>3</sup>John Ellis Wool, 1784-1869. Entered the army as an officer of volunteers in the war of 1812, becoming a major; 1836 transferred the Cherokee Indians west of the Mississippi; 1841 made a brigadier general; second in command at Buena Vista; breveted major general, 1847; 1862 commissioned major general of the United States Army, commanding the Middle Department and the Department of the East until his retirement in August, 1863.

<sup>4</sup>William Buell Franklin, 1823-1903. Was graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1843, serving until the Civil War with the topographical engineers; made brigadier general of volunteers, 1861; major general of volunteers, July, 1862; December, 1862, led a grand division of Burnside's army at Fredericksburg; was removed by Burnside for insubordination, but the President refusing to approve the order, Burnside resigned; commanded a division in the Red River campaign, 1864; served as United States commissioner general at the Paris Exposition of 1889.

Sunday May 18. Mrs Lincoln called in the morning, and I and Emma went with her to Dr Gurleys Church. At 3 P M the President sent for me, and he and I rode out to the Hospital at Columbia College—Went all through it, and shook hands with and talked to all the sick and wounded

\*Monday May 19. At Departments in the morning—In Senate during the day—and at the Presidents at night with Genl Boyle

\*Wash-  
ington

Tuesday May 20. 1862 At War Department and Surgeon Genls in the morning with Mr Flagg—In Senate all day, and at Presidents at the night with Mr Flagg Mrs Browning and Emma went to day to Bladensburg to visit Mr Bright's family, and did not return

Wednesday May 21. In Senate all day. James N Brown of Illinois arrived to day. Mrs Browning & Emma returned from Bladensburg in afternoon

Thursday May 22 Went in the morning with Capt Jas N Brown to see Atto Genl Bates about Adams of Boonville Mo: who wants the President to give him an exemption from arrest—  
license  
that is,,to be a traitor with impunity

In Senate all day

Wash-  
ington

\*At 6 O'clock Mrs Lincoln called in her carriage—the President on horseback. Capt James N Brown & myself took seats in the carriage, and went with them riding; and then had an interview with the President. He read me a despatch of 7 or 8 pages from Genl. McClelland from the army in front of Richmond, giving position of our forces &c

He told me he, the President, was going to slip away as soon as I should leave him, and go, I suppose, to McDowells division. He thought he could do some good, and be back tomorrow night.

\*Friday May 23 In Senate all day, After dinner called to see Rice who has been sick for some days, and spent an hour with him Not out at Presidents today.

Wash-  
ington

Saturday May 24, 1862 For the first time on Saturday since the beginning of the session the Senate is in session. In the morning went to the President's with Jas N Brown. He the

President had reached home this morning, but had gone over to the War Department and I did not see him. In Senate until late in the afternoon.

\*At night Mr Browning Emma and I called on Mrs Stanton and Mrs Hutchinson at Secy of War

Sunday May 25. Mrs Browning, Emma, Judge Watts and I went to Dr. Gurleys Church

\*At night I went to the President's—Intelligence from Banks that he commenced fighting at Winchester this morning and was retreating before the enemy to Martinsburg—President entertained fears he was destroyed

\*Wash-  
ington Monday May 26, 1862 At President's this morning—He had just received intelligence from Banks that he had crossed the Potomac at Williamsport with his entire army in good order.

\*In Senate all day

Tuesday May 27. In Senate all day—Senator Hale came to board at Mrs Carters to day. Mrs Sammons of New York and Mr Taylor of Cincinnati took tea with us. Mr Taylor had been a prisoner at Richmond for six months.

\*I went at night to the Presidents—Found him at war department & spent some time with him

Wednesday May 28

Mr & Mrs Henry Bull and daughter & Mr I C Palmer of Quincy, Ills, arrived this morning

\*Wash-  
ington Wednesday May 28, 1862 In Senate all day. At night went to the Presidents—Found him at the War Department, and spent sometime with him there he pointing out the position of the Rebel forces about Richmond, and of ours on the March after Jackson on the upper Potomac

Thursday May 29 Mr & Mrs Henry Bull and daughter & Mr I C Palmer of Quincy, Illinois, arrived this morning. I was in the Senate all morning At night went to Presidents, with Judge Williams. Then went with the President to the war Department Returned from there to the Presidents where I met Mrs Browning, Mrs Bull & her party and returned with them home

Wash-  
ington

Friday May 30 1862 After breakfast rode with Mr & Mrs Bull, and Mr Palmer till 10½ O'clock—Then in Senate all day

\*Saturday May 31. Spent the morning until 10½ walking through the Capitol with Mrs Browning, Mr & Mrs Bull & Mr Palmer Then in Committee on Territories till 12, and in Senate all day, after Mr Palmer left the City at 11 A. M. and the Bulls at 5 P. M. \*In session until after night

Wash-  
ington

Sunday June 1, 1862 Mrs Lincoln called this morning and Judge Norton and myself went to Dr Gurley's Church with her. About 6 P M I went to the Presidents and walked with him and Mrs Lincoln in the grounds, then went with President to War Department to get further news of the fight at Richmond which commenced yesterday The enemy had attacked us—the battle was terrible but we had driven them back, and the victory was ours

Wash-  
ington

Monday June 2. After breakfast went with Hale, Capt Jones &° to the Arsenal to see new gun carriage invented by Jones. Seems to me a great invention. A gun weighing 9000 <sup>lbs</sup> was on the carriage which could easily be moved either laterally or horizontally and sighted by a child ten years old.

Flagg & Woodruff here this morning—Left for home in afternoon, our girl De Shaza going with Mr Flagg. At 6 P M went to the Presidents and had a talk with him. He is afraid Jackson has got away from Fremont and McDowell

Tuesday June 3. \*In Senate all day. Went with Senators Foote, Hale & Cowan to Majr Beals at night and played a game of Eucre.

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday June 4 Raining heavily all night and this morning. After breakfast went through the rain to the Presidents to see about appointment of Chaplains. Then went to War Department and had Col Morgan appointed Brigadier Genl. and Geo W Burns Pay Master \*At night went to the Presidents—Doolittle went with me

Thursday June 5. In Senate all day. At night went to the Presidents and took tea with him in his room. He showed me a despatch from McClellan saying our loss at Richmond was over



five thousand but did not wish it mentioned at present. Enemies loss said to be still greater.

\*Friday June 6. Passed tax bill through the Senate to day. Adjourned over till Monday. At night Majr Rollins of Missouri and Judge Ewing of Kansas called to see me.

Wash-  
ington

\*Saturday June 7 At the Departments in forenoon—At 12 M. went to Committee on Pacific Rail Road. At 6½ P M went with Jones & Eastman to see the President about Jones Gun carriage. Mrs. Browning rode with us. \*Howe Watts and his wife and her little brother, and some Mexican young lady arrived to night

Sunday June 8. I went to Dr Gurleys Church in forenoon—Mrs Browning & Emma to the Capitol

Monday June 9. In Senate all day. At night Mrs Browning & I called on Mrs Crittenden & Mrs Lane at the National, and Mr & Mrs Harris & Mr Corning at Willards

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday June 10. In Senate all day. At night went to see the President about an exchange of the rebel Buckner<sup>1</sup> for Genl Prentiss &<sup>e</sup> The Kentucky delegation are all opposed to Buckner being given up, but the President is very much disposed to let him go, not attaching much importance to him in any way or any where, either in prison or out of it. Then went with Ihrle to the War Department to get him an appointment. The Secy promised to appoint him on Genl. Wools Staff and have him assigned to Genl Grant for duty.

Wednesday June 11 In Senate all day. At night went to the Presidents at his request, to meet Marshall Lamon & Genl Wadsworth, the military Governor of the District,<sup>2</sup> and try to

<sup>1</sup>General Simon Bolivar Buckner was in command of the Confederate forces which surrendered to General Grant at Fort Donelson in February, 1862. After a short imprisonment in Fort Warren, Boston, he was exchanged in August, 1862, and took part in various operations, including those at Murphreesboro and Chickamauga. In 1896 he was the vice-presidential candidate of the Gold Democrats.

<sup>2</sup>Ward H. Lamon was marshal of the District of Columbia at this time. The importance of defending the capital and the fact that the district was under martial law gave significance to the position of General James S. Wadsworth as military governor of the district. Lamon is best remembered as a former associate of Lincoln in the practice of law, and reputed author of a life of Lincoln, partly based on Herndon's notes, partly on other sources, and bitterly depreciatory.

Wash-  
ington

devise some mode to prevent collisions between the civil and military authorities in the execution of the fugitive slave law. I proposed that Lamont should be permitted to execute all the writs which came to his hands, give Genl Wadsworth notice of arrest, reporting to him every day, holding each slave twenty-four hours after such report & notice—that if in the opinion of the Genl any of the slaves so arrested, belonged to rebels, and were entitled to military protection, all such should be given up by the Marshall to him—All others were to be proceeded with under the fugitive slave laws. Both gentlemen agreed to the proposition, and the President approved it.

Wash-  
ington

I was much pleased with Genl Wadsworth. He is a calm, sensible, just and reasonable man, intent upon doing his duty in a sensible and reasonable manner, with no tincture of fanaticism about him, but firm in his hostility to slavery and rebellion.

I then went with the President down to the parlor and spent the evening with a few friends, and partook of a collation of strawberries.

Thursday June 12 At 9 O'clock this morning went with Reverdy Johnson to the President to ask the appointment of Cuthbert Bullitt<sup>1</sup> as Collector of Customs at New Orleans. The President had twice before told me he thought he should appoint him. He said to us this morning that he would send for Secy Chase, and ask whether there was any reason why the appointment should not be made immediately—If there was not he would make the appointment at once. In Senate all day

Wash-  
ington

Friday June 13. 1862 In Committee of Territories this morning considering the application of West Virginia for admission into the Union as a separate State. This is a vast question. The Committee yesterday ordered a bill to be prepared for its admission, Lane of Kansas and myself only opposing it. This morning I presented to the Committee, some what in detail, the rea-

<sup>1</sup>This was Cuthbert Bullitt, a Louisiana Unionist, to whom Lincoln wrote a significant letter on July 28, 1862, in which he defended interference with slavery when justified by military necessity. There is a resemblance between the sentiments expressed in the Bullitt letter and those reported by Browning in this interview of July 26. Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln*, 6: 150-151.

sons for my opposition to admission at present, and it was agreed to postpone further consideration of the bill till Thursday of next week, and not report the bill at this time

\*In Senate all day King & Sumner refused to vote today on Jim Lanes amendment to naval appropriation bill that Maryland should emancipate her slaves before the Naval Academy should be restored to Annapolis. There was not a quorum present without them, but they refused to vote when several times called. I thought they should have been reprimanded or expelled for contumacy and Contempt, but the Senate took no order in the premises. I being a young member did not like to move, and none of the older ones did so. Chandler came in and voted so that business was not suspended.

At night went to Presidents—but the family had moved out to soldiers Home, and I did not see him.

Saturday June 14 Senate met today, but just after convening Trumbull and I had to go to War Department with Govs Yates and Wood, to see about settlement of Illinois accounts.<sup>1</sup> Saw Genl Meigs but could do nothing with him. Went to War Department but Secy was engaged. Did not see him, and Trumbull and myself returned to the Senate between 2 & 3 P. M. and found it in Executive Session.

\*Sunday June 15 Attended Dr Gurleys Church in the morning. After tea went to National Hotel and called on Govs Yates and Wood.

Monday June 16 At war Department in the Morning and had Geo P. Ihrie appointed on Genl Wools staff with rank of Majr to be assigned to Genl Grant for duty He, Ihrie and his wife arrived here this P. M. and stopped at Mrs Carters

x x x

<sup>1</sup>Brigadier General Montgomery C. Meigs was quartermaster general. At this time Illinois, as well as other states, was seeking reimbursement from the federal treasury for expenses incurred by the state in recruiting the militia and the United States Volunteers. Governor Yates and others made frequent trips to Washington to urge reimbursement of sums spent by the state of Illinois in raising troops. The presence in Washington of General John Wood, quartermaster general of the state, would facilitate the settlement of such claims. *Reports to the General Assembly of Illinois*, 1865, 1:22.

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday June 17, 1862 At Presidents in the morning to see about exchange of Prisoners, Buckner for Prentiss &<sup>e</sup> The President is most favorably inclined and the chief difficulty seems to be the objection of the Kentuckians to the exchange of Buckner \*In Senate all day

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday June 18. Before I was up this morning the President sent his carriage for me to out to Soldiers Home to breakfast with him. I called by Willard's Hotel and took out the great New York Merchant A T Stewart,<sup>1</sup> and Judge Hilton of New York. We were out there until 10½ A. M. and then drove in with the President, and his little son Tom, who came to see, and play with Emma. The conversation at the Presidents was chiefly on public affairs. Mr Stewart is very earnest in his support of the Union cause, and urged that McClelland should be superceded and Genl Pope given the command of the Army of the Potomac. He has no confidence in McClellan During the conversation the President stated, what he on several previous occasions communicated to me, that his opinion always had been that the great fight should have been at Manasses—that he had urged it upon McClellan that if the enemy left Manasses he would entrench at York Town, and we would have the same difficulties to encounter there—that McClellan was opposed to fighting at Manassas, and he, the President, then called a Council of twelve generals, and submitted his proposition for fighting at Manassas to them, and that eight of them decided against him, and four concurred with him, of whom Heintzelman was one. The majority being so great against him he yielded, but subsequent events had satisfied him he was right.

Wash-  
ington

\*In Senate all day \*Cowan, who has been absent a few days, returned this morning, bringing his daughter with him

Thursday June 19. At the Presidents this morning—Then attended the Committee on Territories \*& in Senate all day

Friday June 20 At Presidents this morning. In Senate all day—Passed Pacific R R bill

<sup>1</sup>Alexander Turney Stewart, 1803-1876. A prominent merchant and philanthropist of New York.



sh-ton Saturday June 21, 1862 At Presidents in the morning, and then to the P. O. Depart: with Mr Goodell of Quincy Last night A T Stewart the great Merchant of N. Y. and Judge Hilton of N Y called to see me and spent an hour.

sh-ton \*Sunday June 22 At Dr Gurley's Church in the morning. After Church, the President asked me to get into his carriage and go with him over to the White House, which I did. He then took me into the Library and showed me some memoranda of important events, inauguration of Gov Yates, inauguration of the President, dates of battles, deaths of distinguished persons &c made by his little son Willie, and which he had just found. Also showed me a diagram given him by Cuthbert Bullitt of Vicksburg showing how it might be isolated by cutting across above it where the peninsula in which the Town stands is said to be only a half mile wide—Also called my attention to the maps showing the position of the Town and River Mrs Lincoln then took me home in her carriage

After tea went to War Department to see Mr Stanton on behalf of Ihrie. He was not there and I went to his house and saw him Spent half an hour with Mrs Stanton, and Miss Stanton the niece of the Secy—

Monday June 23. Committee on Territories met this morning and agreed to report a bill for the admission of West Virginia. I stood alone in opposing it.

sh-ton I then went with Ihrie to the War Department—saw Genl Thomas and got an order from him for appointment of Ihrie on Genl Wools' staff with rank of Col Secretary Stanton consented last night that I should do this. I gave the order to Col Garisha to have the Commission made out to date from 7<sup>th</sup> May. \*In Senate all day

Tuesday June 24 At Navy Department in the morning to get extension of leave for Lieut DeKrafft Then on Committee of foreign relations till meeting of the Senate, and in the Senate all day—

Wednesday June 25 Addressed the Senate to day for nearly three hours in reply to Sumner on the confiscation bill<sup>1</sup> \*In the evening rode out to the Presidents at Soldiers Home with Mr & Mrs Ihrie and Emma.

Wash-  
ington

Thursday June 26, 1862 At Presidents and the War Department this morning To day the Senate resolved itself into a high Court of impeachment and proceeded to the trial of Judge Humphreys of Tennessee—<sup>2</sup> Heard the evidence, \*found him guilty and pronounced judgment of ouster and disqualification.

Friday June 27. Judge Norton of Illinois arrived this morning. Had a field day in the Senate over the Confiscation bill.

\*Saturday June 28 Went in the morning to the Presidents with Rev Franklin Morris—Then to the War & Navy departments and Surgeon Genl<sup>s</sup> office on business †In Senate all day†

Wash-  
ington

Sunday June 29, 1862 Mrs Browning, Mrs Ihrie & myself went to Dr Gurleys Church this morning After tea I drove to the Presidents with Genl Rosseau—I then went to the War Department—then to Mr Carrolls, and then home

Monday June 30 After breakfast went to the Presidents and had a brief talk with him about affairs before Richmond Then went with Mrs Browning, Emma, and Fountain Fox to Brady's

<sup>1</sup>On this day there was an interesting and animated debate between Browning and Sumner covering points more far-reaching than the subject under immediate discussion—i. e., confiscation. Sumner had contended that the war powers belong to Congress, not to the President, and he considered the powers of the legislature during war unlimited. "There is not a single weapon," he said, "in its [war's] terrible arsenal, which Congress may not grasp." He also argued that the people of the Confederacy could be dealt with both as enemies at war and as criminals under the domestic law. Browning considered that war powers belonged to the President as commander-in-chief of the army, not to Congress, and he rejected the idea of the double character of enemies and traitors which Sumner attached to the Southern disunionists. Browning urged the strictest adherence to the Constitution in all the measures that pertained to the war. *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 2 session, 2917 ff.

<sup>2</sup>Judge West H. Humphreys, of the United States District Court of Tennessee, was impeached in 1862 and found guilty of adherence to the rebellion, levying war against the United States, decreeing (as Confederate judge) the confiscation of the property of various citizens of the United States, and other offenses. *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 2 session, 2943-2953.

to have some pictures made. \*In Senate all day In the evening went out to Soldiers Home with Mr & Mrs Dorman of Florida. The President got home soon after we reached there. He asked me to sit down with him on the stone steps of the portico—then took from his pocket a map of Virginia and pointed out to me the situation of army before Richmond, and gave me all the news he had from there

He then took from his pocket a copy of Hallack's poems, and read to me about a dozen stanzas concluding the poem of Fanny. The song at the end of the poem he read with great pathos, pausing to comment upon them, and then laughed immoderately at the ludicrous conclusion

Tuesday July 1, 1862 Immediately after breakfast went to the Presidents with Uri Manly. Saw the President alone, and had a talk with him in regard to the Confiscation bills before us. He read me a paper embodying his views of the objects of the war, and the proper mode of conducting it in its relations to slavery. This, he told me, he had sketched hastily with the intention of laying it before the Cabinet. His views coincided entirely with my own. No negroes necessarily taken and escaping during the war are ever to be returned to slavery—No inducements are to be held out to them to come into our lines for they come now faster than we can provide for them and are becoming an embarrassment to the government.

At present none are to be armed. It would produce dangerous & fatal dissatisfaction in our army, and do more injury than good.

Congress has no power over slavery in the states, and so much of it as remains after the war is over will be in precisely the same condition that it was before the war began, and must be left to the exclusive control of the states where it may exist.

These were the leading features of the paper he read me, tho' other questions were discussed \*In Senate all day<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This conversation between Lincoln and Browning is significant as showing how fully the President's thoughts were occupied with the subject of slavery at this period, and yet how far he was as yet from any decision in favor of emancipation. His "first confidential announcement" of such

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday July 2. At Presidents and War Department this morning with Fountain Fox The President showed me despatches from McClelland of Monday night—Had had another hard days fighting and telegraphed that he feared he would have to sacrifice all his stores and munitions to save his men. Said he was hard pressed and asked for re-inforcements. A later despatch which arrived this morning stated that he had received some re-inforcements from below, and driven the enemy. Had also made a change in his position and thought he could maintain himself. Affairs at Richmond are in a very critical condition, and the President is deeply anxious—So am I.

In Senate all day. \*Raining heavily all day. After I got my dinner I went through the rain to the Presidents and War Department, but they had all gone home, and I saw none of them

Wash-  
ington

Thursday July 3. Went this morning with Fountain Fox to Pay Master Genl<sup>s</sup> Office Daniel G Whitney & Mrs Cornwall of California called at the Senate to see me to day. \*In Senate all day

\*Friday July 4. Went to the Presidents after breakfast, and saw the despatches from Genl McClelland & Genl King. The fight at Richmond has been a terrible one—the advantages I think, being decidedly with us At War Department with Fountain Fox Senate met in the morning but had no quorum & adjourned, I then worked in my room till 3 p. m. Mrs Young, Mr Whitney & Mrs Cornwall dined with us. Mrs Cornwall is stopping at our house Lieut DeKrafft with us to tea

---

a decision was made to Secretary Welles of the Navy Department on July 13, 1862. Welles wrote: "It was a new departure for the President, for until this time . . . whenever . . . emancipation . . . had been in any way alluded to, he had been prompt and emphatic in denouncing any interference by the General Government with the subject." *Diary of Gideon Welles*, 1:70-71. It should be further remembered that Lincoln's proposition of compensated emancipation was made before the border state delegation convened at the White House on July 12, 1862, and that the President would naturally delay any radical action while still occupied with the task of conciliating border state sentiment. Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln*, 6:109 ff.



Washington Saturday July 5, 1862 Went after breakfast to the war Department with Mr Ridgely. In Senate part of the day

At night rode out to the Soldiers Home with Mr Whitney to see the President. Mr Carroll met us there, and we rode back with him President showed me the despatches he had received from McClellan giving an account of the fighting before Richmond for the past week. The result is much more satisfactory to us than was previously supposed

Sunday July 6. Very warm day. Not out to Church. At 5 P. M. Mr D G Whitney and Mrs Cornwall left for Baltimore—She is very feeble—seems to be going into consumption—Doubt whether she gets well

sh-ton Monday July 7, 1862 At Navy Department with Senator Foote in the morning—Then in Senate. \*Gen Pope took tea with us in the evening President went to Fortress Monroe to day, and may go to the Army at Richmond Old Capt Smith, Mrs Carters father, died this evening

\*Tuesday July 8. Emma went with Senator Hale to breakfast at Dr Nichols at the Lunatic Asylum this morning. In Senate all day

Wednesday July 9 In Senate all day.

\*Thursday July 10 In Senate all day. Gov Wood of Illinois dined with us. At night Judge Norton & I attended meeting of Republican members at Kelloggs room to District the State for revenue purposes.

sh-ton Friday July 11, 1862 At Presidents in the morning and had an interview with him and Mr Stanton. President had just returned from McClellan's Army near Richmond

He told me he did not think from all the information he could get that our losses in the killed, wounded and missing in the recent battles would exceed 12000. He says the army is still a large one, and in good condition, although much diminished, consisting when it was sent there of 160,000 men They both told me that they intended to adopt a general system of exchange of prisoners \*In Senate all day

Saturday July 12 In Senate all day and until 9½ at night, having taken a recess from 5 to 7 P. M.

Wash-  
ington

Sunday July 13, 1862 Judge Norton & myself at Dr Gurleys Church in the morning. After tea went to Mr Swards—Found Thurlow Weed there. After he left had a talk with Mr Seward about the Confiscation bill. His general views coincide with my own. Said he would see the President in the morning and have a conversation with him upon the propriety of vetoing it. I promised to furnish him a copy of the bill in the morning

He says however the war may terminate it is now half over—that the normal condition of the American people is one of peace and commerce—that were wearying of war, and would soon begin North & South to demand a cessation, and that the party who could hold out longest would triumph

Wash-  
ington

Monday July 14, 1862 At the Presidents this morning. I gave him a copy of the Confiscation bill as it passed, and expressed to him very freely my opinion that it was a violation of the Constitution and ought to be vetoed. I said to him that he had reached the culminating point in his administration, and his course upon this bill was to determine whether he was to control the abolitionists and radicals, or whether they were to control him. That the tide in his affairs had come and he ought to take it at its flood. That if he vetoed it he would raise a storm of enthusiasm in support of the Administration in the border states which would be worth to us 100,000 muskets, whereas if he approved it I feared our friends could no longer sustain themselves there. That we could not succeed without unity of sentiment and purpose which would be secured by a veto as that would at once bring to his support every loyal Democrat in the free states, and consolidate all truly loyal men into one party—whereas if approved it would form the basis upon which the democratic party would again rally, and reorganize an opposition to the administration &c He said he would give it his profound consideration<sup>1</sup> We then had a conversation about Stanton & Mc-

Wash-  
ington

<sup>1</sup>Concerning Browning's influence in connection with Lincoln's proposed veto of the second confiscation act, see introduction, *ante* xxix, and Browning's entry for July 16, 1862, *post* 560.

Clelland. Said that all that Stanton had done in regard to the army had been authorized by him the President—That Stanton had had much to provoke him—that immediately after Fitz Jno: Porters fight McClellan telegraphed to Stanton in very harsh terms, charging him as the author of the disaster—that Stanton came to him with the telegram in his hand, and said to him with much feeling “You know—Mr President that all I have done was by your authority &<sup>e</sup> That about the 4<sup>th</sup> inst Genl Marcy<sup>1</sup> was here and said in a conversation with Stanton that he would not be surprised if McClellan’s army should be obliged to capitulate.

This excited Stanton very much, and he went directly to the President and reported what had been said. It also excited the President, whereupon he sent for Marcy, and said to him sternly, “Genl. I understand you have used the word ‘Capitulate’—that is a word not to be used in connection with our army &<sup>e</sup>” That Marcy blundered out some kind of explanation, excuse or apology—That after this Marcy and Stanton had another interview which resulted in the restoration of kind and friendly feeling between the two—that after this Stanton wrote the letter, to Genl McClellan, a copy of which was shown me a few days ago ~~a copy of~~

by Senator Rice, and brought the letter and showed it to him before he sent it. Mrs Browning went to day to Mr Lemons to dinner. Senate, at 5 P. M. took a recess till 7. P. M. then continued in session till 9½

Tuesday July 15 1862<sup>2</sup> At the Presidents this morning—He was in his Library writing, with directions to deny him to every body. I went in a moment. He looked weary, care-worn and troubled. I shook hands with him, and asked how he was. He said “tolerably well” I remarked that I felt concerned about him—regretted that troubles crowded so heavily upon him, and feared his health was suffering. He held me by the hand, pressed it, and said in a very tender and touching tone—“Brown-

<sup>1</sup>Randolph B. Marcy, 1812-1887. Father-in-law of McClellan and his chief-of-staff.

<sup>2</sup>July 15 to December 31, 1862, is in a book bound in black leather, with 144 gilt-edged, faintly ruled pages. There are 44 pages in a quire tied in back, all but 10 of which are used.

ing I must die sometime", I replied "your fortunes Mr President are bound up with those of <sup>the</sup> Country, and disaster to one would be disaster to the other, and I hope you will do all you can to preserve your health and life". He looked very sad, and there was a cadence of deep sadness in his voice. We parted I believe both of us with tears in our eyes.

\*At 5 P M the Senate took a recess till 7—then met and continued in session till after 10.

Wash-  
ington

\*Wednesday July 16. 1862 At Presidents in the morning—Then at War Department with Illinois delegation at the request of Genl McClernand to ask that he with his Illinois troops might be ordered to James River. \*Mr Stanton said, very properly that he could not hear the application That Genl Hallack<sup>1</sup> was in command of the army of the west, and he must consult with him, and not civilians as to the proper disposition of the army under his command. \*A warm day with rain in the afternoon. Between 2 & 3 P. M. became so dark in the Senate Chamber that the gas had to be lit The Senate passed a resolution to day modifying the confiscation bill to prevent its veto<sup>2</sup>

Wash-  
ington

At 5 P. M. took recess till 7 P M. During recess met Fessenden, and in a conversation about the confiscation bill he said very emphatically that he thought with me it would have been better not to have legislated upon the subject of confiscation at all \*Continued in session until near 1 O'clock A. M.

<sup>1</sup>Henry W. Halleck, 1815-1872. Soldier and writer on military subjects. In command of the west from November, 1861, the successes won there caused him to be brought east as general-in-chief, July 23, 1862. His conduct of operations was much criticized. On Grant's being made lieutenant general, Halleck continued to serve as chief-of-staff.

<sup>2</sup>President Lincoln had intended to veto the second confiscation act, and had prepared a carefully written veto message. His objections were that the measure declared forfeitures beyond the lives of the guilty parties, and that property was to be taken by proceedings *in rem* "without a conviction of the supposed criminal, or a personal hearing given him in any proceeding." Learning of this intended veto, Congress adopted the unusual course of rushing through a joint resolution "explanatory" of the measure, declaring that the law was not to be construed as working "a forfeiture of the real estate of the offender beyond his natural life." Although this left an important part of his objections untouched, the President approved the measure as defined and limited by this explanatory resolution. *Senate Journal*, 37 Congress, 2 session, 872-874; *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 2 session, 3379-3383.



\*Wash-  
ington

Thursday July 17, 1862 At Presidents early this morning. Senate met at 9 A. M. President came down to the capitol about 10, and remained in his room for the convenience of communication with the Senate In Executive session most of the time. Extended hour of adjournment till 2 P. M. When the hour came Senator Foote, the presided officer, in a a very handson, dignified and well pronounced valedictory adjourned the body<sup>1</sup>

Wash-  
ington

Friday July 18, 1862 Raining all day, and I at work in my room in the Capitol arranging my papers preparatory to leaving for home At night Mrs Browning and I went to Judge Bate's and passed an hour or so.

Saturday July 19 At War Department with Arnold in the morning to ask a place for McAllister of Illinois. Then at the Presidents with Arnold, Kellogg & Norton

Wash-  
ington

Sunday July 20. 1862 At Dr Gurley's Church in forenoon. After tea Mrs Browning and I went to Brown's Hotel and called on Mr & Mrs Goodell of Quincy

Monday July 21. At Navy Department. Then at Presidents with Judge Watts, his son, and Col Collins the Indian Agent of N Mexico—Then at War Department with Col Smith of Decatur Illinois

Wash-  
ington

Met Arnold between the War Department and the Presidents. He is eager for the President to issue a proclamation declaring

<sup>1</sup>The long session of the 37th Congress ended on July 17, 1862. Summarizing Browning's record in that session, we may note the following points: He gave the administration friendly support, vindicating the President against various attacks and defending him and his cabinet against hostile utterances made by various senators in the Republican caucus; he showed a consistent opposition to slavery, favoring the bill abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, but he disapproved of social equality between the races and considered racial differences so fundamental that the only permanent good to the negro was to be found in colonization; he supported Lincoln's plan of compensated emancipation, though he believed that the President overestimated the efficacy of his plan; he often spoke in terms of friendliness toward the people of the South and deplored the denunciation directed against them by men of Sumner's type; he supported the resolution to establish a committee of Congress to examine into the conduct of the war (probably because of his distrust of McClellan); he cast his vote against the admission of West Virginia as a separate state; and he vigorously opposed extreme war measures, especially confiscation. *Congressional Globe*, 37 Congress, 2 session, *passim*.

all the slaves of rebels free. He thinks it would "fire the public heart," encourage enlistments and go far towards ending the war. I have always been in favor of seizing and appropriating all the slaves of rebels that we could lay our hands on, and make any valuable use of, but I have no faith in proclamations or laws unless we follow them by force and actually do the thing—and when done we don't need either the proclamation or law

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday July 22, 1862 At McClees Daguerrean rooms in the morning with Mrs Browning and Emma. Then at War Department with Wells & Woodruff—Then at Navy Department—Surgeon Genl<sup>s</sup> and Interior

At 3 P. M. Mrs Browning Emma and I went to Marshall Lamons to dinner. Mrs Genl Jno C Cook of Illinois there.

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday July 23. 1862 At work in my room at the capitol hurrying to get ready to go home

\*Thursday July 24 Went this morning to the Navy Department with Capt Lodwick of Illinois to see about the Steamer Kentucky which had been taken from him by the rebels and recaptured by our fleet at Memphis.

Wash-  
ington

Then went to the Presidents and had an interview with him. He took a map and pointed out the Counties on each side of the River from Memphis down, showing me that blacks averaged 75 or 80 to 20 whites—Spoke of the importance of having the Mississippi opened, and said, "I will tell you—I am determined to open it, and, if necessary will take all these negroes to open it, and keep it open". At this moment Mr Seward came in, whereupon I rose to leave, but he requested me to remain saying he had rather I was present than not. He then said to the President that he wished to send Nicolay the Presidents private Secy to England with despatches to Mr Adams relative to and South American

Wash-  
ington

Mexican affairs. The President assented and it was agreed he should go. I asked Mr Seward if there was any danger of intervention in our affairs by England and France. He said there was unless volunteering went on rapidly, and our army was greatly increased During the morning I told the President I wished to give him a piece of advice,—That there were many

Wash-  
ington

persons, and many cliques who thought they understood how public affairs should be managed better than he did, and who would seek to control him, and force their opinions upon him as his rule of conduct—that the views of such would be various and conflicting—that he had, at the same time, a more comprehensive and more minute view of the entire field of public affairs than any other person could have—and that he should hear all suggestions and get all the facts that he could, and then do himself justice—make up his mind calmly deliberately, and conscientiously what was proper to be done, and adhere firmly to his own opinions, and neither to be bullied or cajoled out of them. He answered that he had done so to a greater extent than was generally supposed—That when he made up his mind to send supplies to Fort Sumter \*he was sustained by only two members of his cabinet Blair and Chase, and that when he determined to give the rebels at Charleston notice of his purpose the entire cabinet was against him, tho they all now admitted that he was right

Wash-  
ingtonWash-  
ington

Friday July 25, 1862 At Commissary Genl<sup>s</sup> this morning. Then went to the Presidents and sat in his room till near 12 O'clock, but he was at the War Department and did not return whilst I remained \*In the evening Mrs Browning and I rode out to the Soldiers Home to take leave of the President and his family as we intend to start home on Monday We took Lieut De Krafft of the Navy and Mrs Watts of Santafe with us.

Wash-  
ington

The President told me that Genl Halleck had gone to the army at James River, and was to have supreme command of the entire army—that he was satisfied McClellan would not fight and that he had told Halleck so, and that he could keep him in command or not as he pleased. That if by magic he could reinforce McClelland with 100,000 men to day he would be in an ecstasy over it, thank him for it, and tell him that he would go to Richmond tomorrow, but that when tomorrow came he would telegraph that he had certain information that the enemy had 400,000 men, and that he could not advance without reinforcements.

Wash-  
ington

In speaking of our foreign relations he said England wanted us to permit her to get \$50,000,000 worth of Cotton from the

South and that the matter was being considered, but that we could not let the cotton out without letting its value in, and in this way we would never succeed in crippling them much in their resources.

Wash-  
ington

Saturday July 26, 1862 Went in the morning to the Presidents and closed my business with him and took leave of him I read him a letter I had received from Bullitt of New Orleans complaining of Genl Phelps<sup>1</sup> Administration of affairs and saying that all the union sentiment there was crushed out

Wash-  
ington

He told me he had one from Reverdy Johnson to the same effect, and read me his reply to it. He said the people there were making false pretences—that there was but little union sentiment—that they wanted the government to protect them, their property, and institutions whilst they sympathized with and aided treason and rebellion—that it should not be done. If they were tired of Genl Phelps administration they knew how to get rid of it by returning to their allegiance and submitting to the authority of the government, and if they did not do so, and he could send any heavier scourge upon them than Genl Phelps they had better be looking out for it. I had with me a letter from W<sup>m</sup> M Thayer<sup>2</sup> author of the *Bobbin boy* asking me for anecdotes of the President that he might prepare a similar biography of him. I read him a portion of the letter and he asked me leave it with him which I did

Wash-  
ington

Sunday July 27 Did not go Church this morning—Getting ready to go home At 5 P M made a call on Miss Carroll and gave her a copy of each of my speeches which she had requested

<sup>1</sup>Brigadier General J. W. Phelps, who was at this time in command of Union forces near New Orleans, caused a considerable stir by giving refuge to fugitive slaves within his lines, even encouraging them to seek such refuge, and by premature and unauthorized action looking toward the recruiting of several negro regiments. In June, 1862, he proposed that through military service negroes be elevated to freedom, and that the military abolition of slavery should be thus accomplished. Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln*, 6: 447.

<sup>2</sup>The Reverend William Makepeace Thayer, 1820-1898. Prolific author of books for boys, of which the following were typical: *The Bobbin Boy, or how Nat got his learning* (a story of Nathaniel P. Banks); *Abraham Lincoln, the Pioneer Boy*; *From a Log Cabin to the White House* (a life of Garfield).



Wash-  
ington

Monday July 28. 1862 Called at the Presidents at 10 A. M. but he was at War Department closeted with Genl Hallack and others, and I did not see him

Busy getting ready to leave at 5 P. M. \*At 5 P M left Washington by rail for Philadelphia where we arrived at 11 O'clock at night and stopped at the Continental Hotel

Genl Burnsides and Genl & Mrs Franklin on the cars from Washington to Philadelphia

Phila-  
delphia

Tuesday July 29, 1862 Miss Nellie Bushnell joined us here to day, and will go on with us home. Miss Louisa Benedict called and dined with us. Met Senator McDougall here. Have done some shopping and will continue our journey home tonight \*At 10½ P. M. Mrs Browning Emma, Miss Bushnell and myself took the cars for home via Pittsburg—Had no sleeping car till we reached Harrisburg at 3 in the morning when Mrs B and I went to bed—the girls preferring to remain where they were. We slept well until near Altona where we breakfasted

On the  
road

Wednesday July 30. and continued our journey, Changing cars at Pittsburg for Chicago. At Crestline about 9 Oclock at night we all took a sleeping car—went to bed and slept well all night, and reached Chicago about 9 Oclock A. M.

Thursday July 31—and stopped at the Briggs House, where we rested all day. Bushnell was with us, being here attending the U S Circuit Court.

At 9 P. M. we took the cars for home, went to bed and slept comfortably

Quincy

Friday Augt 1, 1862 Reached home at 9 A. M. without accident or adventure, and all well.

Saturday Augt 2. Persons down from Canton and La Grange, Mo: to day to procure aid to protect them against guerrilla bands of rebels who are again overrunning North Missouri. Last night they entered Canton—shot young Mr Carnega, plundered the Town of all the arms, ammunition and medicines they could find—and are now threatening La Grange, already being in possession of all the other Towns in the County. Gov Wood, Grimshaw and myself telegraphed to Springfield for

Quincy

arms, and ammunition, and 400 stands were sent over which reached here about midnight.

Quincy

Sunday Augt 3. Not at Church to day. Late in the P. M. Dr Hay of La Grange, Mo: came to my house to solicit men and arms for the protection of La Grange against guerrillas. I went with him to Gov Wood's, and Mr Flaggs, and got them both to come to the City with us. Gov Wood and myself then went with the Dr to the camp North of the City, where two or three hundred unarmed raw recruits are assembled, some of whom consented to go provided we would arm them. We then came back to the City, and opened the boxes of arms and ammunition received the night before, and which were stored in the Court House, and dealt them out to such troops as were willing to go on the expedition. I came home about 11 o'clock, not being well, leaving Gov Wood to complete the arrangements. By 2 O'clock in the morning 160 men had been equipped, and marched down to the River and embarked on the Steam ferry boat Quincy, for La Grange.

Quincy

\*Monday Augt 4. Wrote to the President to day in regard to situation of affairs in Missouri. At night Mrs Browning Emma and I attended party at Mr Henry Bulls. Mr & Mrs Caldwell who have been in our house during our absence left to day. Mrs Chilton Moore of Ky. and her daughter Alice dined with us on their way to Jacksonville.

Quincy

Tuesday Augt: 5 1862 At home most of the day Somewhat indisposed. Engaged in writing letters

Wednesday Augt 6. Rode out to Camp with Grimshaw to see Col Waters but he was not there. Receiving calls, and writing letters all day.

\*Thursday Augt 7. Mrs Flagg of Galesburg and Charley Warren of Macomb here to dinner \*Mr & Mrs & Miss Leighton of Hannibal called to day—\*At night went to party at Gilpins

Quincy

Friday Augt 8, 1862 At 2 P M addressed a meeting<sup>1</sup> on Washington square. At 6 P. M. Jonas and I took the cars for

<sup>1</sup>Richardson, Morris and C. A. Warren also spoke. *Quincy Whig*, August 9, 1862.

Macomb where I have engaged to speak tomorrow. Reached there at 8 O'clock and stopped at Randolph House.

Saturday Augt 9. At one P. M. addressed the largest audience in the Court House Square that I have ever seen assembled in Macomb—Spoke for an hour & a half. Jonas also spoke. At 8 Oclock took the cars for home and arrived at 1 A. M.

Quincy

Sunday Augt 10, 1862 Not out during the day—Emma and I went to Mr Emery's Church at night.

Monday Augt 11. Wrote to the President this morning. James C Caldwell, the brother of Mrs Browning reached here to day, having been arrested as a rebel, at his home, near Richmond Kentucky a week ago, and sent here on his parol, by Genl Boyle of Kentucky to remain as a prisoner until further orders

Quincy  
& Lima

Tuesday Augt 12 Grimshaw & myself went to day to Lima and addressed a very large meeting of the citizens—men and women—upon the subject of the war—Richardson & Morris also made speeches

We dined and took tea with Mr Thomas Killum, and after tea drove home, reaching here between 9 & 10 at night

Wednesday Augt 13. At home—

\*Thursday Augt 14 do:

Friday Augt 15 do:

After dinner Mrs Browning and I rode out to Camp Quincy, and to our garden in 8<sup>th</sup> Street

Quincy

Saturday Augt 16, 1862 At night addressed a very large meeting at the Court House—packed to its fullest capacity—on the subject of the war.<sup>1</sup> During the evening I was interrogated by James Adams and Dr Hubbard, and interrogated them in turn, both of whom admitted that they were not willing that the rebels should lay down their arms, and return to their allegiance, and the Union and peace be restored until slavery was totally exterminated. They are really not for the Union, but simply against slavery

<sup>1</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, August 15, 1862, announced this as a defense by Browning of his course in Congress.

Quincy Sunday Augt 17, 1862 At Church in the morning, Mr Piper our preacher having returned. At night went to Mr Emery's Church.

Monday Augt 18 Dr Ellis, Joab Green and some others brot down to day from Hancock as prisoners, arrested for disloyalty. They were taken down to St Louis. I saw them at the Court House, and had some conversation with them. They protest that all they have done was to advocate a settlement of the difficulties—believing it could be done

Quincy Tuesday Augt 19, 1862 Ninian Edwards of Springfield and Robt L Browning of Jeffersonville here to day. \*Dr Wood Asst Surgeon Genl called at night

Wednesday Augt 20 Majr Jno: Kinzie of Chicago called whilst we were at dinner and dined with us

Thursday Augt 21 Took medicine last night & have been at home all day In the evening Mrs Browning and I rode out to Henry Bulls.

Quincy & Mt Sterling Friday Augt 22, 1862 In P. M. went with Mrs Browning to Gov Woods to reception of Mrs Yates, Matron of Hospitals, given her by "sisters of good Samaritan"

Saturday Augt 23 At 4 A M took cars for Mount Sterling. Prevost & his wife went along. Breakfasted at Mr Perketts. Then rode out with Mrs Prevost to the farm, and dined there. At 2 P M addressed a large assemblage of the citizens of Brown County on the State of the Country. Took tea at Purketts' and then returned with Prevost and his wife to Quincy, getting home between 11 & 12 at night. Majr Holtons company of volunteers and a concourse of citizens met me at the depot to escort me home. When they arrived at my house I was addressed by Thomas Duff Esqr on behalf of the company, to which I replied, making a brief speech to the crowd.

Quincy Sunday Augt 24 At Westminster Church in the morning, \*and at Mr Emerys at night where President Sturdivant preached on the war. The burden of his discourse was that proclaiming the negroes free would settle the strife

Quincy Monday Monday Augt 25, 1862 Wrote to the President to day



Tuesday Augt 26 Nothing special

Wednesday Augt 27. Received to day a letter from Genl J. T. Boyle of Louisville, Ky, in regard to the case of my brother in law Jas C Caldwell, who has been here for over two weeks, on his parol, having been arrested at Richmond, Kentucky, for disloyalty.

I read the letter to Mr Caldwell and had, for the first time, a talk with him in regard to the rebellion. He denied all the charges contained in the letter, but admitted that he desired the success of the rebellion—the establishment of a Southern Confederacy and that Kentucky should become a part of it. He said he had violated no law, and done nothing to aid or encourage the rebellion—and on the other hand he had done nothing to assist the government in putting it down, and would not. That he had been neutral and would remain so if they would let him alone, but if compelled to take sides with one party or the other he would cast his fortunes with the Southern Confederacy

Thursday Augt 28, 1862 Nothing special. Mrs B and I took a ride, and called on Judge Williams & his wife in the evening

Friday Augt 29 \*At home. Took ride with James Caldwell in evening

Saturday Augt 30 At noon took passage on the Steamer Warsaw for Louisiana, on my way to Bowlinggreen, Mo: where I have engaged to speak on Monday

Arrived at Louisiana just after night, and stopped at Mrs Templeton's Hotel

Sunday Augt 31, 1862 Kept my room most of the day. Did not go to Church this morning Senator Henderson<sup>1</sup> and I went to Mr Thomas E Williams to tea A very heavy thunder storm came on about dark and continued until some time in the night, \*with wind and rain

<sup>1</sup>Thomas J. Henderson, of Princeton, Illinois, served in the General Assembly, 1855-1860; colonel and brevet brigadier general in the Union army; congressman, 1875-1895. He came within a few hundred votes of beating Lovejoy, the returns being 11,683 to 11,020. Browning's course was subjecting him to covert attacks even in the *Quincy Whig*.

Louisiana

Monday Sept 1, 1862 After breakfast went in a carriage with Henderson, Dyer & Judge Fagg to Bowling green—Had delightful ride. Dined at Dr Reynolds. After dinner Henderson & myself addressed a large concourse of ladies & gentlemen from a stand in the Court House yard on the general subject of the war, and especially on the proposition of the President for gradual emancipation with Colonization. Resolutions were adopted with one dissenting voice approving the proposition made by the President. We then returned to Louisiana getting back just at night, and went to Mr Drapers to tea.

Louisiana  
& Quincy

I beset for a speech in Louisiana, and at 8 O'clock at night a large meeting of ladies and gentlemen had assembled in a Church to hear me. I spoke to them for an hour upon the State of the Country

Tuesday Sept 2. About sunrise took the Steamer Warsaw for home, where I arrived at 1 P. M.

Wednesday Sept 3. Bushnell went, to day, to Macomb to attend Court.

\*Quincy  
&  
Princeton

Thursday Sept 4, 1862 At 6 P M took the cars for Princeton, Bureau County, where I have engaged to speak tomorrow. Mr Holliday<sup>1</sup> of the overland mail route to the Pacific was on board, just arrived from San Francisco—He told me Capt James Whitney came with him and stopped at Quincy. I had much conversation with him about the burning of the Golden Gate, he having been on that ill fated steamer, and was saved by lashing himself to a ladder—he could not swim—200 persons were lost. They were about four miles out at sea when the fire broke out, and he represents the scene on board as horrible beyond description That the vessel was headed to land for the purpose of beaching her—that the flames swept through, and drove the passengers all huddled together to one end of the ship—that some stood and laughed wildly and frantically—others prayed, others tried to pray and others swore horribly. Holliday is a man of great nerve and vigor of character—was about embarking for

Princeton

Princeton

<sup>1</sup>Perhaps Ben Holliday, 1819-1887, pioneer merchant in Salt Lake City and San Francisco, founder of Holliday's mail and overland express, and of the pony express. Later a man of wealth and picturesque spender.

Europe where his family is, but says he will never venture to see again—that his nerves received a shock of which they will never recover. I reached here between 1 & 2 O'clock at night—Heavy thunder storm and rain on the way up.

\*Friday Sept 5 Rained considerably through the morning, but ceased about noon. At 2 O'clock a very large audience was assembled in the Court House yard, men and women. I addressed them on the state of the country, for two hours and a half. They had no seats but stood on the wet grass during the whole time. I never saw a more attentive audience, and I believe my speech was most acceptable to a large majority of them. I also think some of the abolitionists were very mad, tho Lovejoy who spoke a half hour after I closed, fully and unconditionally endorsed all I had said

President Blanchard was present, and announced that he would reply to me *tomorrow* night. \*A large number of republicans and Democrats called on me at the hotel, and remained until near midnight in conversation upon public affairs. They were greatly delighted with my speech, and intend to try and beat Lovejoy for Congress with either Knox or Henderson. I did not go to bed, and at about 2 O'clock in the morning took the cars for Galesburg where I have an appointment to speak tomorrow. Has rained all night, beginning about dark and continuing with but little intermission

Saturday Sept 6, 1862 Arrived here just after day. Found Josiah Gale waiting for me and went home with him. At 2 P M addressed a meeting at Dunn's Hall, which was packed full

Mrs Bettie Miller and her brother John Johnston called to see me at the Hotel at the Depot after the speaking. About 5 O'clock took the cars for home, and arrived at 1 O'clock at night Mrs Gov Wood, Mrs Holmes and her daughter on the cars down

Sunday Sept 7, 1862 Did not get up in time to prepare for Church this morning, but attended Mr Emery's Church at night.

Monday Sept 8 At Home

Tuesday Sept 9 At Home. In the evening Mrs Browning and I rode out to Esqr Asbury's, and sat an hour or so.

Wednesday Sept 10 Wrote to the President, to Gov Robinson of Ky,<sup>1</sup> and to Genl Wright.<sup>2</sup> \*At 6. P. M. in company with Jonas, Jno Williams & others, took the cars for Monmouth where Congressional Convention meets tomorrow. Reached Galesburg at 11. and remained there all night

\*Mon-  
mouth

Thursday Sept 11, 1862 Left Galesburg at 5 A. M. and went to Monmouth to breakfast. Stopped at Bay State House kept by Munger. Congressional Convention held to day, and nominated Hon C B Lawrence by one vote over Grimshaw. The nominee is an excellent man but I regretted Grimshaw was not nominated. He deserved it, and should have had it. Quincy delegates all left for home at night. I remained and addressed the people at the Court House at 7. P. M. on the state of the Country. Bad night, but Court House crowded. Serenaded at my Hotel after I had gone to bed

Mon-  
mouth  
& Quincy

Friday Sept 12, 1862 At 8 A. M. took the cars for Home—From Galesburg down a freight train, with accommodation car attached. \*Left Galesburg at 10 A. M. and reached home at 8 P. M.

Saturday Sept 13. At Home

\*Sunday Sept 14 At Church in the morning—Rev Mr Winn preached. At night at Mr Emery's Church where Mr Winn preached again

Monday Sept 15 At Home

Quincy &  
Chicago

Tuesday Sept 16, 1862 Henry Bull, wife and daughter, Mr Baldwin & wife, Mrs Cox and daughter, and Mrs Ware of St Louis breakfasted with us.

\*Wednesday Sept 17 Wrote to the President and sent letter from Chrisman \*At 6 P. M. took the cars for Chicago with Emma to place her at school

<sup>1</sup>James F. Robinson, Democrat, governor of Kentucky, 1862-1863.

<sup>2</sup>Probably Major General Horatio G. Wright, 1822-1899. Commissioned brigadier general of volunteers 1861, major general of volunteers a year later; commanded a division in the battle of the Wilderness; 1864, successfully defended Washington against invasion by General Early; 1865, made brevet major general of the United States Army.



Thursday Sept 18 Arrived at Chicago at 6 this morning, and stopped at Briggs House, Room 21. After breakfast took Emma to Mr Berteaus. In P M called at Coolbaughs

Chicago— Friday Sept 19, 1862 Doing errands most of the day on account of Emma—Late in P. M. called at Coolbaughs and took a ride with him and his wife. He told me that a gentleman of the highest standing informed him that Genl Curtiss of Iowa<sup>1</sup> had \$150,000 in cash deposited with Mr Buckingham of this city as his share of Cotton speculations in the South which he had got through his position as Genl, by making a monopoly of the trade and granting permits to those only who would divide with him I had intended speaking here to night but there is so much excitement about the war that I have concluded to postpone it, for the present and come again in two or three weeks. They wished to serenade me last night and have a speech from me but I would not consent

\*Saturday Sept 20 At 9 A M took the cars and came down to Aurora. Stopped at the Empire House At night addressed the people in a Hall on West side of the River. The abolitionists had torn down the notices of the meeting, and used all the influence they could to keep the people from turning out—still the hall was crowded. I spoke for two hours. Went home with Bangs and staid all night.

Aurora Sunday Sept 21. In the morning to the old school Presbyterian Church, and home with James Brawner to dinner \*Spent the afternoon at Bangs' in conversation with a number of gentlemen who were calling to see me

At 11 Oclock at night took the cars for home—Went to bed and did not get up till near Camp point next morning.

Quincy Monday Sept 22. 1862 Reached home at 9½ this morning. James Simpson, son of Judge Simpson of Kentucky, a lad 17 years old, a nephew of Mrs Browning, came on the same train to my house, a refugee from the rebels, having escaped from his home in Winchester Ky, of which the rebels are at present in

<sup>1</sup>Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis, 1807-1866. Union general who opposed the Confederates in Missouri, winning the battle of Pea Ridge and other important engagements.

possession. He made his way into Ohio on horseback, and came thence by rail to Chicago, and thence here. He belonged to the loyal home guards of Kentucky

Quincy

Tuesday Sept 23, 1862 Wrote to the President in regard to Genl Prentiss who was captured at Pittsburg landing, and has not yet been exchanged. Also in regard to Rev Mr Emery of this City, who wishes to be Chaplain at Benton barracks

\*Wednesday Sept 24 Mr Hawkins of Tennessee called to see me to day and converse about the State of the Country. He is very loyal, and says a majority of the People in the portion of West Tennessee where he resides are so, but he dreads the effect of the Presidents proclamation just issued

Quincy

Thursday Sept 25, 1862 Mrs Browning, Mr Caldwell her brother, James Simpson her nephew, Mr Bushnell & myself out at Asbury's to tea.

Friday Sept 26 Wrote to Sheffield \*At 6 P. M. Mrs Browning & I took the cars for Galesburg I on my way to Peoria, & she to Knoxville to visit our friend Mrs Miller Reached Galesburg at 10 O'clock—Being full at the hotel at the depot had to go to the Bancroft House to get a bed, where we staid all night

Peoria

Saturday Sept 27, 1862 Went over to the hotel at the depot to breakfast. At 9 A M again took the cars—Left Mrs Browning at Knoxville, and I came on here in Company with Mr Johnston who joined me at Knoxville. Stopped at his house Misses Letitia and Fanny being at home.

At three P. M. addressed the people, in the Court House yard, on the State of the Country—Spoke something over two hours, and so far as I could judge from the manifestations of approval, much to the satisfaction of the audience

Peoria

Sunday Sept 28, 1862 Went with W<sup>m</sup> F Bryant Esqr to old school Presbyterian Church in the morning. In the afternoon called at Mr Hamlin's,<sup>1</sup> Mr Morrison's, and then at Mr Ballance's<sup>2</sup> where I remained at tea. Returned to Mr. Johnston's and spent the evening with the family, and between 9 & 10

<sup>1</sup>John Hamlin, 1800-1875, pioneer of Peoria County.

<sup>2</sup>Charles Ballance, 1800-1871, pioneer of Peoria County.

O'clock went to the Peoria House to stay all night for the convenience of taking the care at 5 O'clock in the morning for Knoxville

Knox-  
ille Monday Sept 29, 1862 At 5 this morning took the cars for Knoxville. Got into conversation with Majr Wright<sup>1</sup> of Fulton County, now of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Regt: Ills volunteers—He formerly belonged to Col Ross' Regiment, and was in the battles of Pittsburg landing & Shiloh. He says Genl Prentiss held his ground all day, and fought desperately, without giving way at all, until 5 P. M. when Sherman's command on his right, and also the division on his left having been driven back, and no information sent him of that fact, he was surrounded and compelled to surrender, but that the obstinacy with which he held his position through the day, had contributed much to save our army from annihilation. That the army was without a head, Grant not coming upon the field until 1 P. M. and not seeming to know what to do then. That Genl Wallace's command was within 8 miles when the battle commenced, but was not ordered up altho they were in line awaiting and expecting orders—That part of Buell's army, under Genl Nelson, came upon the field about 5 P. M. when our army was in great peril and that Nelson immediately made and executed arrangements which saved. That there were 36 pieces of ordnance lying upon the bank of the River of which no use had been made there—that Nelson had them put in position in a battery, and as the enemy moved upon our troops he opened upon them a storm of fire that they could not withstand and repeatedly drove them back, and thus rescued our army from capture—that it was this movement of Nelson, and not the gun-boats that saved our army—that the banks of the River at that place was 60 feet high and the guns of the boats could not reach a man He further stated that Sherman's division was attacked whilst at breakfast without any knowledge whatever of an approaching foe, being taken completely by surprise.

Knox-  
ille

Knox-  
ille

<sup>1</sup>George W. Wright, M. D. Served for a time in the 17th Illinois Infantry and later attained the rank of lieutenant colonel in the 103d Illinois Volunteer Regiment; served in the campaign against Fort Donelson and in the battle of Shiloh.

I went to Mr Millers to breakfast, where I joined Mrs Brown-  
ing—We also dined there—then went with Mr & Mrs Miller to  
Dr Greenleaf's to tea, and after tea drove back to the depot at  
Knoxville, and took the cars to Galesburg where we arrived  
about 8 P. M. and stopped at the house at the depot & staid all  
night

Quincy

Tuesday Sept 30, 1862 Left Galesburg at 5½ A. M. and  
reached home at 9½

\*Wednesday Oct 1. Very warm and raining most of the  
day Mr Joseph Moore, who has been residing for some years  
in Peru was with us to tea with his sisters Misses Martha and  
Caroline. The mother and daughters have resided here for a  
year or two, but will leave tomorrow for the City of New York  
where they are provided for by the son and brother above men-  
tioned I had much interesting conversation with him about  
Peru. The negroes were manumitted there in 1855, and are on  
a footing of political equality with all others, but not admitted  
into society Mulattos are if otherwise qualified. The Indian  
is becoming the dominant race and will swallow up both the  
Spaniard and negro. Sugar and cotton are the chief agricul-  
tural products. The production of cotton can be greatly ex-  
tended. One valley of 80 or 90 miles in width by 250 or 300 in  
length produces cotton equal in quality to our best Sea Island,  
and only requires irrigation to make the production immense. A  
company is incorporated, and already commencing operations to  
provide the irrigation The guanno Islands one of the Chief  
sources of revenue to the government.

Quincy

Quincy

The deposits of guanno about 200 feet thick

Thursday Oct 2. One of the warm days of the season. Dr  
Alfred Baker of Pike County here to day

Quincy

Friday Oct 3, 1862 Very hot day.

Saturday Oct 4 At night attended meeting of Synod at New  
school Church to hear several of the members discourse on the  
State of the Country. All thought the extermination of slavery  
the proper measure to restore the Union. Rev Mr Sanders a  
professor in Illinois College asserted, with a great deal of pom-



posity, that all who clamored for the Constitution and the Union were traitors, or sympathizers with rebellion.

Quincy Sunday Oct 5, 1862 At Church A. M. & P. M. Mr Stark preached in the morning—Mr Rankin in P. M. both of the New School Synod now in session here.

Monday Oct 6. My brother in law James C Caldwell, who has been here since Augt 11, under arrest for treason left for home to day via St. Louis, Genl Boyle having become satisfied he was improperly arrested, and having given him permission to return to his home in Richmond Ky. I gave him letters to Genl Wright, and Capt J M Rice Cincinnati

Quincy Tuesday Oct 7, 1862 Mrs Putnam, formerly Miss Mary  
6  
Duncan, spent the day with us—Mrs Tillson came to tea

Wednesday Oct 8. Raining all day.

Thursday Oct 9 Rained all day

Friday Oct 10 Quite cool & windy. In P. M. called on Mrs Baldwin, Mrs Mills & Miss Wright

Quincy Saturday Oct 11 First frost of the season this morning  
\*Senator Pomeroy<sup>1</sup> of Kansas and his wife in Quincy to day. They are on their way to New York to embark for New Grenada, with a Colony of blacks. He as an abolitionist has heretofore opposed Colonization, but is now thoroughly and earnestly in favor of it as the only scheme which can be of value to the blacks. Says Sumner is very hostile to the enterprise and abuses him for engaging in it. He further said that he had become satisfied that my course in the last session of Congress was wise and right—that he had become a convert to my doctrines and hoped I would be elected to the Senate by our Legislature.

In P. M. I took Mrs P. out riding

Sunday Oct 12 At Hospital in Spring street with Mrs Browning where she was occupied all day. I went to Church in the forenoon and afternoon.

Monday Oct 13 \*At 6 P M took the cars for Chicago

<sup>1</sup>Samuel C. Pomeroy, 1816-1891. United States senator, 1861-1873.

Chicago Tuesday Oct 14, 1862 Reached here at 6 Oclock this morning, and stopped at the Briggs' House. At 10 A M went to U S Court Room and staid till dinner. Had conversation with Judge Drummond<sup>1</sup> upon public affairs. He agrees fully with me in my views—Thinks nothing should have been said upon the subject of slavery, but that the army should have proceeded vigorously in the prosecution of the war, receiving all the negroes that came, and seizing all those of the rebels that they could reach—Thought the Presidents proclamation unfortunate—He was not satisfied of its constitutionality but to say nothing of that, it was ill advised as it could do no possible good, and certainly would do harm in uniting the rebels more firmly than ever, and making them fight with the energy of despair. Between two & three P. M. went to Mr Berteaus to see my daughter Emma, and spent near an hour with her. After tea Capt Cameron of Chicago who commands a company in Bracketts Cavalry, came to my room, and I had a long talk with him. He has been with the army, under Curtis, in Arkansas for about eight months, and has just come home to recruit his health. He says when he went to Arkansas a majority of the people were loyal, and if affairs had been properly managed we might long ago have had a loyal Governor and legislature there, and the State represented in Congress—but that when he left there was not one Union man in ten thousand—that the proceedings of Congress, and the conduct of our army has made rebels of them all, and thoroughly

Chicago united them against us—that the army has been permitted to embark in indiscriminate plunder and that the soldiers plundered union men and rebels alike—He gave me instances in illustration of his statement. He says when he went there all old line whigs were loyal and devotedly so—that as a general rule the democrats were disloyal, but not universally so, and that a majority of the people could easily have been secured for the Union. That Genl Curtis could easily have marched upon Little Rock, and have

Chicago crushed the rebellion—that the rebels had no sufficient preparation for defense—no army that could have withstood us for a day, but that there was no cotton at Little Rock—That at Helena

<sup>1</sup>For Drummond, see *ante*, 31 n. 2.

there was no army & plenty of cotton, and that Curtis marched his army there, and spent his time in Cotton speculations—that he had several millions dollars worth seized, much of which he thinks he converted to his own use, and put in his own pocket Genl Steele<sup>1</sup> he says is a very fine officer. I asked him about the negroes—He answered that they had been a great disadvantage to the army—That the negro who collected around had diseased and demoralized it to an incredible extent—That a majority of the soldiers cared nothing about the question of slavery, but wished to fight the battles of the Country and let slavery take care of itself—that so far from the army being abolitionized their views had been modified in the other direction, and that there were not now as many abolitionists as when they went into the field At 9 O'clock P. M. took the cars on the Rock Island Road on my way to Lacon

Wednesday Oct 15 Reached Lacon just after day break and stopped at the Marshall House. At 3 P M addressed large meeting at the Court House on the State of the Country. At 9 P. M. left Lacon and came up the Rail Road to Bureau Junction, and at 12 O'clock at night left there in a carriage for Princeton in company with Col Thompson, Mr Kendall & Mr Peckham of Princeton—another carriage with others in company

Thursday Oct 16, 1862 Reached here at 1½ this morning—stopped at the American House and went to bed and slept till 8½ At 2 P M took the cars for Burlington, Iowa, where I arrived at 8 P. M. and went to my brothers

Friday Oct 17 At Burlington

Saturday Oct 18 At Burlington. Waiting and watching for Mrs Browning, who promised to meet me here, but she has not arrived at midnight

Sunday Oct 19, 1862 Found Mrs Browning at the Barret House this morning, she having arrived on the Steamer Pembina between midnight and day. After breakfast we went to my brothers and were not out again during the day.

<sup>1</sup>Major General Frederick Steele, 1819-1868. Held important commands in Missouri and Arkansas in 1861 and 1862.

Monday Oct 20. \*At 8 P. M. took the cars on our way home. Reached Galesburg at 10 P. M. and staid all night at Depot

Tuesday Oct 21 Left Galesburg at 5½ A M & reached home at 9½. \*In P. M. Mrs B & I rode out to Mrs Cox's—Then went to depot to see Miss Lou Greely off for Maine, who was married this morning to Mr Dingley of that state

Quincy

Wednesday Oct 22, 1862 At 9½ A M went to depot to meet Genl Prentiss who has just returned from his captivity in the South where he has been a prisoner since the battle of Shiloh. Large procession of military and civilians. I rode up with him to Washington Square where I made a brief welcoming address to which I responded At night he addressed a large meeting at Concert Hall, giving a very interesting narrative of his captivity in the South from the battle of Shiloh on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April to the present time

Quincy

Thursday Oct 23, 1862 Wrote to Agricultural Dept for bulbs.

\*Friday Oct 24. Genl Prentiss & Mr Bushnell with us to tea. At night Mrs B and I attended a reception given to the Genl by the Sisters of the good Samaritan. It took place at Ed Savages, and was a very pleasant affair. Quite cold and a very little snow fell—barely enough to be seen.

Saturday Oct 25 Our nephew James Simpson of Kentucky, who has been here several weeks, started home to day via St Louis

Quincy

Sunday Oct 26, 1862 At Church in the forenoon and not out again

Monday Oct 27 Circuit Court commenced its session here

8

to day. Joab Green came to my house before night and stayed till after supper. He had heretofore been arrested and sent to St Louis by a provost Marshall, on suspicion of treason. I had much talk with him. He thinks we can never conquer the South, and is therefore opposed to the war. Thinks the Southern States had no cause to secede not right of secession &c For such opinions men ought not to be arrested. Does harm.



Tuesday Oct 28, 1862 At home. In the evening Mrs Browning and I attended reception given to Genl Prentiss at Mrs Fox's

Wednesday Oct 29. Wrote to Cowan. In afternoon Senator Wright of Indiana made a speech in Washington Square. He is decidedly loyal—for the government in all its measures, and against all party organizations. Made some good points and said some very extravagant things Among others that if the north was united the war would be at an end in six months— That as soon as the rebel army was driven out of Virginia it would disperse into guerrilla bands, and then England & France would interfere against them as pirates and compel a peace— That the Southern Confederacy would never be recognized by either England or France.

At night meeting<sup>1</sup> at City Hall at which Genl. Prentiss, Col Bain, and J Grimshaw Esqr spoke. I heard only the two first and left. There were extravagances uttered and loudly applauded which I could not approve. Sneers at the constitution &c

Thursday Oct 30, 1862 Very warm.

Friday Oct 31 Warm day. At home In evening Mrs B and I rode out to Mr Baldwins and made a call

Saturday Nov. 1, 1862 Gov Wright of Indiana<sup>2</sup> came to my house to day Dr Darracks family & Miss Asbury to tea—At night a large political meeting at City Hall addressed by Gov Wright, and Col Pratt of Mo: Gov made the same speech he made in the Square a few days ago—<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This was a Union rally. Browning had been advertised to speak at it, but did not. *Quincy Whig*, October 30, 1862.

<sup>2</sup>Joseph Albert Wright, 1810-1867. Democratic congressman, 1843-1845; governor of Indiana, 1849-1857; minister to Prussia, 1857-1861; 1862-1863, United States senator, filling the place of Jesse D. Bright, expelled; 1863, United States commissioner to the Hamburg Exhibition and second time minister to Prussia.

<sup>3</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, November 1, 1862, announced Browning to speak along with Wright. November 3 it offered Wright's speech but no explanation of the failure of Browning to speak. Instead it promised speeches that evening by Browning, Grimshaw, and Jonas, which it did not report till later. It is curious that Browning does not mention his speech of November 3.

Sunday Nov 2 At Church in the morning—Not out again  
Gov Wright left about 1 oclock P M on Keokuk packet

Quincy

Monday Nov 3, 1862 Lovely day. Wrote to Sheffield

\*Tuesday Nov 4 Election—Badly beaten by the Democrats. Just what was to be expected from the insane ravings of the Chicago Tribune, Quincy Whig, *ed id omne genus*.<sup>1</sup> In the Evening Mrs B and I called at Mr Sam Churchs, Mr Seaman's, Mrs Austin's and Mr Sartells

Wednesday Nov 5 Quite cool day, but very dry and dusty.

About 30 of the "old folks" met and rehearsed at my house preparatory to a concert

Quincy

Thursday Nov 6, 1862 At Home

<sup>1</sup>There were serious Republican losses in the congressional elections of 1862. Though Lincoln's party retained control of Congress, such states as New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin sent Democratic delegations to Washington, and the *New York Times* characterized the election as a "vote of want of confidence" in the President. Dissatisfaction with the progress of the war, and the resentment produced by the emancipation proclamation and the suspension of the habeas corpus privilege had much to do in bringing about this result. The Democratic opponents of Lincoln obtained control of the Illinois legislature. Rhodes, *History of the United States*, 4:163 ff.; see also *post*, 611 n. 1.

The *Quincy Whig's* comment of November 10 is of interest:

"We include too in this account—though we refer to it unwillingly and painfully—Mr Browning's efforts in the conservative line. He came home from Congress embittered and angry because his labors against a confiscation law were not approved; he made speeches here and there denouncing leading Republicans as traitors and enemies to the country, which had no other effect than to divide the Republicans and cheer on their enemies. He fought on in this way until suddenly set back by the Emancipation Proclamation. We believe he did not again appear in public until Gov. Wright came. He twice introduced *him* to large audiences, and listened himself to his eloquent and noble appeals for the Republican Union ticket. Thinking that he meant to sustain that ticket, he was invited to speak at a Union meeting on the night before the election. He appeared, began his speech by solemnly pronouncing the issues more momentous than [*sic*] any ever before known in any election in this country and then astonished his hearers by the sage advice that they should be sure to vote for the *best ticket*, leaving it to be inferred that he did not know which *was* the best ticket. Gov. Wright, a Democrat, had an opinion and gave it; Mr. Browning gave none, and after getting through with that branch of his subject, fell back into the confiscation rut, and wound up with a sneer at proclamations— That's the way *our* conservatives sustained the Union ticket—"

Friday Nov 7. Mrs Browning of Jeffersonville Indiana here to day. Came to see me in relation to appointment of her husband Robt L Browning as Qr Master. Left on the Toledo road at 6 P. M.

At night I attended an entertainment at Concert Hall—Speaking by Genl Prentiss, and singing by the “old folks”.

\*Saturday Nov 8 At home

Sunday Nov. 9, 1862 At Church in the forenoon. In afternoon Mrs B. and I attended funeral of Mrs Mears little boy.

Monday Nov 10 Genl E A Carr<sup>1</sup> and his brother called to see me this morning. I asked the Genl in regard to Genl Curtis—He said he did not approve of all he had done—He had been speculating in cotton at Helena, but it was not true that he could have marched to Little rock at the time he took his army to Helena in July—Did not speak in very high terms of Curtis Asked him about Siegel<sup>2</sup>—He said he was not a great man—and that the Germans had spoiled him by persuading him that he was. That he was a good artillerist, and capable of being a very good Majr Genl. That he was neither a coward nor distinguished for personal bravery, but would when he conveniently could keep himself well out of danger—That it was not true that the victory at Pea Ridge was due to him and that Curtis did not give up the Command to him. \*At 6 P M took the cars for Springfield. Missed connection and had to stay at Bluff City all night

Tuesday Nov 11, 1862 At 9 A M left Bluff City. I kept on to Decatur to visit Genl. Oglesby who was badly wounded at the battle of Corinth. I reached his house between 1 & 2 P. M. dined with him and remained with an hour, busily engaged in conversation

He said he had never met 20 men in the army who were in favor of arming the negro—The soldiers cared nothing about the negro, or party politics—They wished to put down the rebellion, restore the Union, and restore the authority of the constitu-

<sup>1</sup>General Eugene A. Carr of Illinois, 1830-1910. Commanded the Third Illinois Cavalry at Pea Ridge and led a division at Vicksburg.

<sup>2</sup>Franz Sigel, 1824-1902. The well known German-American general.

Decatur  
& S

tion and laws, and let all other questions alone. He said great injustice had been done Genl Grant by the charge of drunkenness—that he once had been dissipated and sometimes drank a little now, but did not get drunk—that he was personally brave, and anxious to discharge his duties as a soldier, but was not a very able Genl—that he never informed himself of the topography of a Country in which he was to operate, and that he had no capacity for combining his forces, and when combined he did not know how to separate them for action on different points at the same time—that if he had 40 000 in battle, and found it necessary to use 10,000 upon given point he would not know what to do with the other 30,000 in the mean time, but would leave them to go in pell-mell if they chose to do so

Decatur

Genl Rosencranz<sup>1</sup> he said in these particulars was perfect. That he kept all his staff at work for him, and wherever he was would have exact maps of all the Country for ten miles round, on which every road, and path, and hill and ravine would be accurately marked, and that he could also handle his men well in the field. He further said that the Genls he had met with did not seem to have any feeling about the war, or to care how long it lasted, but seemed only desirous to acquit themselves honorably and faithfully of the duties imposed upon them

Decatur  
& Spring-  
field

After remaining with him an hour I took the cars and returned to Springfield where I arrived at 5 P. M. and stopped at the American House—Went over to State House, and had a long talk with Hatch Afterwards Philips U S Marshal, Weldon U S atty Jack Smith & others called to see me at the Hotel

Spring-  
field

Wednesday Nov 12, 1862 Had a conversation with Butler this morning in which he told me that during the battles in Virginia under Popes command Genls Fitz Jno Porter and Griffing<sup>2</sup> sent a courier to Genl McClelland with a despatch signed by them saying “hold on, dont send reinforcements, and we have Pope

<sup>1</sup>Brigadier General William S. Rosecrans, 1819-1898. Replaced Buell as commander of the Army of the Cumberland in 1862; conducted the operations against Bragg until relieved after the battle of Chickamauga in 1863.

<sup>2</sup>Brigadier General Charles Griffin, 1826-1867. Accused by Pope of slackness and insubordination at the second battle of Bull Run, but retained his command, serving as division and corps commander to the end of the war.



where we can ruin him", and that the despatch fell into the Presidents hands and he now had it.

I asked him how the paper got into the Presidents' hands, and he said the President was notified that such a despatch had been sent, and that he had the courier watched for, seized and the note taken from him. I asked him if this was true how it was possible the President could permit either Porter or Griffing to remain in Command a day, and why he did not have the arrested, tried and shot. He answered that he did not know unless he was afraid to have them arrested.

Had a conversation with Hon Jno: T. Stuart. He is warmly for prosecuting the war with all possible vigor until the rebellion is put down, the Union restored, and all rebels compelled to submit to the authority of the Government. He does not believe there can be any compromise. He thinks the Presidents emancipation and Habeas Corpus proclamations were most unfortunate, and but for them that the democrats would steadily and earnestly have supported the administration

Spent the afternoon in calling upon friends and then went to Chris Brown's to tea.

\*Thursday Nov 13 Took cars at 3 A M & reached home at 9 A M. Old folks<sup>1</sup> rehearsed at our house at night

Friday Nov 14, 1862 At Home. In P. M. Mrs B & I called at Gov Woods & Col Tillsons. Dr Bailey & Mr Putnam in at our house in evening

Saturday Nov 15 At Home—Wrote to Cowan—

Sunday Nov 16 At Church in A. M. Not out again

Monday Nov 17. At Home

Tuesday Nov 18 At Home—Raining all day In the evening Mrs B. and I called at Mr Pearsons to see Alex—

Wednesday Nov 19, 1862 At home—

Thursday Nov 20 Sisters of good Samaritan met at our house this morning—Rev Mr Emery & his wife in at night. He has just returned from Memphis, Helena &c where he has been

<sup>1</sup>The Old Folks were a concert troupe dressed in 18th century costume who gave performances for war relief. *Quincy Whig*, September 14, 1863.

visiting the soldiers. He says our army is doing an immense deal of wanton mischief, as well as mercenary plundering.

Quincy

That they rob and steal for private gain, and burn and destroy through malice or wantonness, utterly regardless of the loyalty or disloyalty of the person depredated upon. He says the army is fast being demoralized and will be ruined unless a more rigid discipline is adopted and enforced.

Friday Nov 21. Out with Mrs Cox in the morning in pursuit of Dr Nicolls of the hospital to see about getting soldier discharged—Did not find him—Asbury & Bushnell with me to tea.

Saturday Nov 22 Very fine day and warm. At 4 P. M. Mrs Browning and I took the cars for Chicago, She to see Emma, and I on my way to Washington.

Chicago

Sunday Nov 23, 1862 Reached Chicago just at day this morning and stopped at Briggs House—Room No 9. After breakfast Mrs B and I walked over to Mr Berteau's and brought Emma to spend the day with us. I took her back after tea.

Monday Nov 24 Mr Gooding of Lockport, and Mr Bangs of Aurora came to see me to day, and dined us. Emma and Lila McGinnis came in the P M and remained till after tea. W<sup>m</sup> C Goudy Esqr<sup>1</sup> called. He told me that when the democrats nominated their state ticket the expected to be beat, 20,000. Had no intention of a contest till the proclamations issued.

Chicago

Tuesday Nov 25, 1862 At 11 Oclock this morning Mrs Browning took the cars for home. Geo C Bates Esqr<sup>2</sup> called to see me. We had a long talk on the state of the Country. He agrees fully with me in sentiment. Is very despondent—Thinks we are in danger of Civil war in the free states if the President gives himself up to the control of the radicals, and undertakes to

<sup>1</sup>William C. Goudy, 1824-1893. Graduated from Illinois College in 1845, and attained prominence as a lawyer, particularly as a railroad and corporation lawyer in Chicago; state's attorney of Fulton County, 1852-1855; state senator, 1856-1860.

<sup>2</sup>George C. Bates, 1814-1886. Served for a time as United States district attorney for Michigan, and later resided in California, Colorado, and Utah. From 1861 to 1871 he practiced law in Chicago.

enforce his proclamation suspending the Habeas Corpus. At 7 P M I took the cars for Philadelphia via Fort Wayne & Pittsburgh. Snowed a little this P M

Wednesday Nov 26, 1862 Got up this morning in time to breakfast at Crestline. At <sup>Mansfield</sup> Alliance our engine gave out, and we were detained several hours in consequence of which we did not reach Pittsburgh until 6 P. M. and the train to Philad: being gone we had to remain there till 11.20 P. M. Wilson of Iowa in company with me—At 10½ at night we went into the Sleeping cars and went to bed. There was an inch or two of snow in Ohio this morning, but it did not reach to Pittsburgh. We dined at Alliance

Thursday

Friday Nov 27, 1862 When I got up this morning we were at Ferryville on the Juniata where we breakfasted and had to remain several hours in consequence of a freight train being off the track in advance of us. About sun down when we reached Philadelphia—Stopped at Continental Room 90. Has been a mild, pretty day. The sun threw the shadows of the trees far across the bosom of the Juniata whose waters lying placidly in the light seemed as blue as indigo

Friday

Saturday Nov 28, 1862 Met Senators Foote and Fessenden, and representative Fessenden<sup>1</sup> of Maine at the Continental. At 11 A. M. took the cars for Washington

In conversation with Fessenden upon the proclamations he expressed his surprise that they should have been issued. Said the President, as President, had nothing to do with the condition of the negro. That as Commander in Chief of the army he might do whatever was demanded by the exigencies of the service to the extent that he could enforce his purposes with the army, but that the proclamation of itself, did not and could not affect the status of a single negro. That if the President desired to say in advance what he intended to do he should simply have said that on the first of January he would direct his Genl<sup>s</sup> to

<sup>1</sup>T. A. D. Fessenden, 1826-1868. Congressman from Maine in place of Charles W. Walton, resigned, serving from December 1, 1862, to March 3, 1863.

Wash-  
ington

seize all the negroes they could reach in the insurrectionary districts—That the proclamation was very unfortunately worded, and was, at best, but *brutem fulmen*. That the proclamation suspending the privilege of the writ of Habeas Corpus in the loyal states where no insurrection existed was an exercise of despotic power which he did not possess, and very dangerous. We found Judge Collamer on the cars with his family, having come this morning from New York. He, Mr Foote, Fessenden & myself got into a conversation about Sumner. I remarked that before I met him in the Senate I had always regarded him as a man of and large benevolence

Wash-  
ington

ability, and as an honest, earnest, sincere fanatic upon the subject of slavery who believed all he said. Fessenden asked if I still held that opinion. I answered that it had been greatly modified by two sessions service with him in the Senate. His character was then very freely discussed by Collamer, Foote and Fessenden, and they all concurred in characterizing him as cowardly, mean, malignant, tyrannical hypocritical, and cringing and toadyish to every thing, and every body that had the odor of aristocracy. Senator Fessenden had a daughter in law, and Representative Fessenden two daughters along. I made their acquaintance, and found the pleasant agreeable woman. We reached Washington about 6 P. M. and Mr Foote and I stopped at Mrs Carters on Capitol Hill—Found Senator King already there.

Wash-  
ington

Saturday Nov 29, 1862 Sheffield arrived this morning before breakfast. At 12 I called on the President. He was apparently very glad to see me, and received me with much cordiality. We had a long familiar talk. When speaking of the result of the recent elections I told him that his proclamations had been disastrous to us. That prior to issuing them all loyal people were united in support of the war and the administration. That the masses of the democratic party were satisfied with him, and warmly supporting him, and that their disloyal leaders could not rally them in opposition—They had no issue without taking ground against the war, and upon that we would annihilate them. But the proclamations had revived old party issues—given them

Wash-  
ington



a rallying cry—capitol to operate upon and that we had the results in our defeat. To this he made no reply.

I added that the Republican party could not put down the rebellion—that no party could do it—that it required a union of all loyal men in the free states to give us success, and that without that union we must disasterously fail. To all this he fully assented.

I asked him whether Genl Pope was a failure, or whether he had been sacrificed by the bad faith of his officers. He replied that he knew no reason to suspect any one of bad faith except Fitz John Porter,<sup>1</sup> and that he very much hoped an investigation would relieve him from suspicion, but that at present he believed his disobedience of orders, and his failure to go to Popes aid in the battle of Friday had occasioned our defeat, and deprived us of a victory which would have terminated the war. That all Popes orders, and all his movements had met with the full approval of Genl Halleck and himself with one exception. That during the conflict between Popes and the rebel army, he Pope, had placed a portion of his army in a position, which he pointed out to me on the map, which alarmed him, but that no bad results followed—in fact it had turned out fortunately

That after the last battle fought by Pope the army was much demoralized, and it was feared the enemy would be down on Washington. In this emergency he had called McClellan here to take upon him the defence of the City—That he soon brought order out of chaos, and got the army in good condition. That for such work McClellan had great talents—Indeed for organizing, disciplining and preparing an army for the field and handling

he was super

it in the field he was superior to any of our Genls. That when the rebels crossed into Maryland he sent for Burnside and told him he must take command of our army, march against the enemy and give him battle. Burnside declined—said the responsibility was too great—the consequences of defeat too mo-

<sup>1</sup>For failure to obey Pope's orders at the time of the second battle of Manassas, General Fitz-John Porter was cashiered by court martial in 1863, but after a long struggle he secured the reopening of his case by act of Congress and his reinstatement as colonel in the regular army, 1886.

mentous—he was willing to command a Corps under McClellan, but was not willing to take the chief command of the army—hence McClellan was reinstated. The battles of South Mountain and Antietam were fought with ability—as well as any Genl could have fought them, but McLellan was too slow in his movements. He could and ought to have prevented the loss of Harper's Ferry, but was six days marching 40 miles, and it was surrendered. He did not follow up his advantages after Antietam. The army of the enemy should have been annihilated, but it was permitted to recross the Potomac without the loss of a man, and McClellan would not follow. He coaxed, urged & ordered him, but all would not do. At the expiration of two weeks after a peremptory order to that effect he had only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of his army across the River, and was six days doing that, whereas the rebel army had effected a crossing in one day

He concluded as he has in all the conversations I have had with him about McClellan by saying that his great defect was his excess of caution I asked him about what Butler told me in Springfield that Fitz John Porter & Genl Griffing had sent a despatch to McClellan to hold on, that they had Pope where they could ruin, and that this despatch was in the Presidents hands—He said there was no shadow of foundation for such a story and no truth in it. I asked him about Burnside's army before Fredericksburg, and whether it was likely soon to accomplish any thing. He answered that Burnside was now here consulting upon that subject—That he and Hallack had just left the room as I entered That to get at the enemy he had to cross the Rappahannock, and that to cross in the face of an opposing army was very hazardous, especially as he did not know its strength, and could not ascertain it. They had just been debating whether to move immediately, or whether to wait a few days till some collateral movement could be made to create a diversion which would render the passage less difficult, and that the question would be decided to day Burnside had then gone with Halleck and would receive his final orders before he left him.

\*Sheffield arrived this morning, and Cowan at night. Also Giffin and his wife

Sunday Nov 30 At Dr Gurleys Church in the morning Not out again

Wash-  
gton

Monday Decr 1, 1862 After breakfast called on Genl and Mrs N B Buford. Asked the Genl his opinion of Genl McClellan. He said he was brave, honest, patriotic, and scientific—but not qualified to lead men in fight

Wash-  
gton

Pope had brains, but was cowardly, a brutal tyrant, and an infamous scoundrel. Grant had personal bravery but no capacity—was a very small man. Take the least, and feeblest of the Circuit Judges of Illinois, and Grant was less than he. We had suffered immensely from the want of capacity in our officers. The men brave and heroic in fight, but rogues in camp.

Senate convened at 12 m. Mr Foot presiding.

Presidents message recd and read. It surprised me by its singular reticence in regard to the war, and some other subjects which I expected discussed, and by the hallucination the President seems to be laboring under that Congress can suppress the rebellion by adopting his plan of compensated emancipation, when if there was no opposition to it, it would require at least four years to have it adopted as he proposes. Called on Lieut & Mrs DeKraft at Navy yard in the evening

Wash-  
gton

Tuesday Decr 2, 1862 Called in the morning at Dr Gibbs' to see Mrs Sammons, who is with her dying sister Miss Elizabeth Caldwell. After adjournment of the Senate went to the Presidents to see him about appointing Mr Emery Chaplain of the Hospital at Quincy. He again repeated to me what he had previously said about McClellan, that he could better organize, provide for and discipline an army, and handle it with more ability in a fight than any general we had, but that he was too slow. That he was a week marching 40 miles before the battle of South Mountain, and two weeks after a positive order before moving across the river

Wash-  
gton

Wednesday Decr 3, 1862 Went this morning to the War Department and got appointment for Robt L Browning as Qr Master, and of Josiah Gale and Joshua Wood as PayMasters.

Hon Isaac Newton called at night to urge upon me to accept a position in the Cabinet as Secy of the Interior, in place of Secy

Smith who, it is understood is to be District Judge of Indiana

Thursday Decr 4. At Presidents in the morning in regard to promotion of Col David Stewart to Brigadiership. Genl Buford called to see me in P. M. and Lieut DeKrafft in the evening

Wash-  
ington

Friday Decr 5, 1862 After dinner went with Richardson & Singleton to see the President in regard to restrictions upon trade between Quincy & Missouri. In the evening Hon Thomas Ewing of Ohio came into my room and had a long talk upon public affairs. Among other things he said the Presidents emancipation and Habeas Corpus proclamations had ruined the Republican party in Ohio.

Wash-  
ington

That without them they would have carried the state easily, and that with them they were badly beaten in the elections. He also said that Secretary Chase, as a politician, was knavish, dishonest and corrupt, and a secessionist at heart anxious for the destruction of the Union as a means of destroying slavery, and thereby gratifying his extreme abolition prejudices—

Snowed heavily all the P. M.

Saturday Decr 6 Senate not in session to day—Have been busy at the departments all day. Called at Willards to see Mrs R L Browning in the evening

\*Wash-  
ington

Sunday Decr 7, 1862 At Dr Gurley's Church in the morning. Just after I returned the President sent an invitation for me to dine with him at 5 P. M. I do not think Sunday an appropriate time for dinner parties, and supposed the President wished to see me privately, and hence had sent for me; but I found Senator Harris of N. Y. Judge Davis of the Supreme Court, Hon. I. N. Arnold of Illinois, and the two private secretaries Nicolay & Hay present beside myself. In a company thus composed there could be no conversation except of the most general character, and I left between 7 & 8 o'clock.

Wash-  
ington

After I got back to my room the Hon Thos Ewing of Ohio, came in and sat with me an hour. He told me many anecdotes of the olden time. Spoke of Mr Clay as an inimitable statesman, but who was disappointed and chagrined, and some what soured



in his temper in the latter years of his life Mr Webster was a magnificent orator, and the finest table companion he ever saw. If his table talk had been written down and reported, it would in wit, and instructiveness greatly surpass that of Dr Sam Johnson. As an orator he thought him superior to Demosthenes. He was equally clear, direct and vigorous, and more chaste and elegant. He had all of Demostheness sarcasm without his coarseness, and all his eloquence and force without his fury. But he had failed greatly before his death—had injured himself by his excesses, and his brain was softening. He gave way to drunkenness and licentiousness, and his tastes for women were low and coarse. He also was disappointed and soured in his temper and alienated from some of his old friends before his death. In speaking of Fremont he said he was in the Senate with him—sat near him and observed him closely, and left the Senate with the conviction strong upon his mind that Fremont was the smallest and weakest man, intellectually, in the body \*When he, Ewing, resigned his place as Secretary of the Treasury in Filmore's cabinet, Filmore got him to go to Hon Mr Vinton<sup>1</sup> of Ohio, and urge upon him its acceptance. He did so, and after some persuasion Vinton consented to take it. It was afterwards given to Corwin without explanation or apology. Mr Ewing added that he did not speak to Filmore for two years after.

Monday Decr 8, 1862 Mr Lamon Marshall of the District, talked with me this morning about the Secretaryship of the Interior, and urged me to accept it if it was offered to me. Hon Thos Ewing of Ohio did the same thing last night. In the evening called on Genl and Mrs Buford—

\*Tuesday Decr 9 This evening admiral Foote<sup>2</sup> called to see me—Found him a younger man than I expected—Just my own age, and an very agreeable gentleman

<sup>1</sup>Samuel F. Vinton, 1792-1862. Whig representative from Ohio, 1823-1837, 1843-1851. Appointed by President Lincoln in 1862 to appraise the slaves emancipated in the District of Columbia.

<sup>2</sup>Admiral Andrew H. Foote, 1806-1863. Prominent in western naval operations; commanded the naval attack upon Forts Henry and Donelson in February, 1862.

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Decr 10, 1862 Senate adjourned early, and in company with Mr Ewing, Senator Cowan, & Mrs Giffin I visited the Monitor "Passaic" at the Navy Yard. Lieut DeKrafft of the Navy Yard, and Miller of the Passaic politely showed us through her. She is a wonderful vessel—solid iron—lies 10 ft in the water, it coming to within 8 or 10 inches of the top of the deck on which the turret stands. The officers state rooms—the gang way for the crew—the work shops—kitchen—dining room and all are below—There are a few round, small sky lights in the deck, but they can be made water and shot proof with iron stoppers when in action. The walls of the turret are 11 inches thick of solid iron. It has two port holes and carries two guns—one 11 inch—the other 15 inch, weighing 42,000 <sup>lbs</sup> and carrying a ball weighing 420 pounds. Three or four men can handle this big gun, and one man can revolve the turret. There are large revolving iron stoppers to close the port holes and protect the men when loading. Nineteen men is the maximum to be em-

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

are  
ployed in the turret. The pilot house is also of solid iron and stands on top of the turret—The whole thing is constructed with wonderful ingenuity At night called on Mrs Genl N B Buford, and Mrs Genl Jno Buford, and went with them to call on Mrs Lincoln. She had *head ache*, and could not see us. Then called on Mrs Crittenden—Then called at Willards to see Genl & Mrs Pope, but they were not in.

Thursday Decr 11 Dined with Senator Arnold of Rhode Island at 6 P M in company with Senator Wilson of Massachusetts Returned home at 9 O'clock and read part of the Paraguay case

\*Wash-  
ington

Friday Decr 12, 1862 Went to the Presidents at 6 P. M. and had a talk with him. Among other things he said there was never an army in the world, so far as he could learn, of which so small a per centage could be got into battle as ours—That 80 pr cent was what was usual, but that we could never get to exceed 60. That when he visited the army after the battles of South Mountain and Antietam he made a count of the troops, and there were only 93,000 present when the muster rolls showed

there should be 180,000 Whilst I was with him Cassius M Clay & some other gentlemen sent in their cards. He was much annoyed—said to me he did not wish to see them, and finally told the servant to tell them he was engaged and could not see them to night.

I asked him what he thought of Clay. He answered that he had a great deal of conceit and very little sense, and that he did not know what to do with him, for he could not give him a command—he was not fit for it.

He had asked to be permitted to come home from Russia to take part in the war, and as he wanted to some place to put Cameron to get him out of the War Department he consented, and appointed Clay a Majr Genl hoping the war would be over before he got home. That when he came he was dissatisfied and wanted to go back, and was not willing to take a command unless he could control every thing—conduct the war on his own plan, and run the entire machine of Government—That could not be allowed, and he was now urging to be sent back to Russia. What embarrassed him was that he had given him his promise in writing to send him back if Cameron resigned

Hon Jesse O Norton arrived to day.

At night professors Henry<sup>1</sup> & Bache<sup>2</sup> called on me.

\*Saturday Decr 13 Running to the departments thro the forenoon. At 6 P. M. went with Senator Harris to the Presidents to ask that Robt B Nay sentenced to 20 yrs imprisonment by a Court martial at New Orleans might be pardoned. He said he must serve one year at least Great battle progressing at Fredericksburg

Sunday Decr 14, 1862 Mrs Lincoln sent her carriage this morning for me to go to Church with her which I did. The President did not go. After Church she rode with me to Capitol Hill. On our way down she told me the President was anxious to get Secretary Smith out of the Cabinet, and me in his place.

<sup>1</sup>Joseph Henry, 1797 or 1799-1878. Eminent physicist; secretary of the Smithsonian Institute from 1846.

<sup>2</sup>Alexander D. Bache, 1806-1867. Superintendent of the Coast Survey, 1843-1867.

That he was anxious to have Mrs Browning and myself in Washington, and the only thing that would prevent him offering me the place would be the fear of having it said he was giving everything to Illinois, but she thought he would do it—She knew he wished to.

Wash-  
ington

Monday Decr 15, 1862 Went at night to the Presidents with Judge Norton, Genl & Mrs N B Buford & Mrs Genl Jno : Buford. Left them with Mrs Lincoln and I went up and talked with the President. I took him the bill creating the State of New Virginia. He was distressed at its passage, and asked me how long he could retain it before approving or vetoing. I told him ten days. He wished he had more. I replied I would give him a few days more. That I would not now lay it before him, but would retain it and furnish him a copy to examine which I did. I asked him as to the strength of our army at Fredericksburg—He said with Siegels corps which had joined it numbered 170.000. He was troubled about the army, and did not know what was to become of it. It had crossed the Rappahannock, fought a battle with an intrenched enemy at great disadvantage, and with great loss, and without accomplishing any valuable result—Now it could not advance—he feared it could not stay where it was, and it would be dangerous to retreat across the River in the face of the enemy I afterwards took the ladies and gentlemen before mentioned up into the Presidents room and gave them the benefit of fifteen minutes interview

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday Decr 16 At the war Department for Robt L Browning this morning.

The news now is that our army recrossed to the North side of the Rappahannock last night. Hearing this relieved me of very painful apprehensions for its safety, and yet it is very discouraging—that it should have been necessary.

Wash-  
ington

The Senate adjourned between 1 & 2 O'clock P. M. and a caucus of Republican Senators was immediately called in the reception room.

I was delayed a while in going in. Trumbull I understood had made a speech before I got there assailing the administra-



tion very bitterly. Wilkinson<sup>1</sup> was speaking when I entered. He denounced the President and Mr Seward—the latter very bitterly, and charged him with all the disasters which had come upon our arms alleging that he was opposed to a vigorous prosecution of the war—controlled the President and thwarted the other members of the Cabinet. That he was the cause of Banks army going South instead of cooperating with Burnside, and that even Stanton did not know where its destination was—He said our cause was lost and the country ruined

Grimes followed in a similar strain, and then old Ben Wade made a long speech in which he declared that the Senate should go in a body and demand of the President the dismissal of Mr Seward. He advocated the creation of a Lieutenant Genl with absolute and despotic powers, and said he would never be satisfied until there was a Republican at the head of our armies—Fessenden followed—He said a member of the Cabinet informed him that there was a back stairs & malign influence which controlled the President, and overruled all the decisions of the cabinet, and he understood Mr Seward to be meant. He was for demanding his removal &c

Grimes then offered a resolution of want of confidence in the Secretary of State, upon <sup>which</sup> Fessenden asked a vote by ayes and noes Dixon then made a speech against the resolution—King spoke against it.

I then rose and said the war must proceed till one party or the other was brought to unconditional submission—We must conquer the rebels or they would us. There could be no compromise &c The war ought to be made as vigorous and powerful as possible &c If what was charged upon Mr Seward was true—if he was opposed to a vigorous prosecution of the war—in favour of compromise &c he ought not to retain his place—but I had no evidence the charges were true, and could not, therefore, vote for the resolution &c Admitting them to be true I did not then think the resolution should be adopted—It was not the proper course of proceeding. There should be harmony, and

<sup>1</sup>Morton S. Wilkinson. Born 1819. Republican senator from New York, 1859-1865.

Wash-  
ington

unity of purpose and action between all the departments of government, and all the loyal people or we could not succeed. This would be war between Congress and the President, and the knowledge of this antagonism would injure our cause greatly in the Country. It would produce strife here, and strife among the people if insisted on &c. I thought a deputation of our body should be sent to have a full, free, and kind interview with the President—to learn the true state of case—give him their views &c. Several Senators sided with me, and an adjournment was moved till tomorrow to give time for reflection<sup>1</sup>—This was opposed, and a vote demanded by Trumbull and others, but the motion to adjourn was put and carried

Wash-  
ington

These ultra, radical, unreasoning men who raised the insane cry of on to Richmond in July 1861, and have kept up a war on our generals ever since—who forced thro the confiscation bills, and extorted from the<sup>2</sup> President the proclamations and lost him the confidence of the country are now his bitterest enemies, \*and doing all in their power to break him down. They fear the  
their own heads,  
indignation of the people will break in fury upon, as it should, and they are intent upon giving it another direction<sup>3</sup>

Wednesday Decr 17. With Head and Boone at Genl Ripleys office in the morning.

After the adjournment of the Senate the Republican Senators again met, and resumed the consideration of the question which was before us yesterday. Many speeches were made, all ex-

<sup>1</sup>Such a deputation did have an interview with the President on December 19, 1862. For an account of Lincoln's skillful handling of this delicate situation, see Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln*, 6: 264 ff.

<sup>2</sup>At this point the volume itself is filled. What follows is in a quire pasted into the back.

<sup>3</sup>Nicolay and Hay regarded this senatorial attack upon Seward as a serious cabinet crisis, and devoted a chapter to the subject. Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln*, 6: 253-272. Though the *Congressional Globe* naturally contained none of the proceedings of the Republican senatorial caucus, which Browning records above, yet opposition to the administration was made evident in the discussion of arrests made by the State Department. Concerning this subject Browning defended the administration in open Senate. *Congressional Globe*, December 16, 1862, 37 Congress, 3 session, 102-103. See also *Diary of Gideon Welles*, 1: 194-205, and N. W. Stephenson, *Lincoln*, 289 ff.

pressive of want of confidence in the President and his cabinet. Some of them denouncing the President and expressing a willingness to vote for a resolution asking him to resign. Most of those who spoke were the partizans of Mr Chase, and excepted him from the censure they bestowed upon the cabinet.

\*In my remarks on yesterday I said I knew there was no more honest, upright, conscientious man than the President, and that I knew him to be in favour of the most vigorous prosecution of the war, and that he intended to prosecute until every state was restored to the Union, and every rebel compelled to submit to the authority of the government

To day Trumbull repeated substantially the same thing, but said the President was thwarted in his purposes by members of the cabinet and Genl<sup>s</sup> who were not for vigorous measures

Senator Harris offered a resolution declaring in substance  
that  
that a reconstruction of the cabinet would give renewed confidence in the administration

Sumner moved that a Committee of seven be appointed to call on the President and represent to him the necessity of a change in men and measures. Both resolutions were adopted—every Senator present voting for them except King; Mr Foot was absent.

The Committee consisted of Collamer, Wade, Fessenden, Harris, Grimes, Sumner, Trumbull, Howard<sup>1</sup> and Pomeroy. They are to report to another caucus to be called hereafter

Genl Prentiss called on me in the evening. He says after the evacuation of Corinth thousands of the Western troops were sent to Richmond to fight McClellan

Thursday Decr 18, 1862 With Boone & Head at the Treasury Department in the morning. In the evening went with Mr D W Wise of Boston<sup>2</sup> to the Presidents \*The Servant at the

<sup>1</sup>Jacob M. Howard, 1805-1871. Drew up the platform of the first Republican convention in 1854 and christened the party; attorney general of Michigan for six years; member of House of Representatives, 1841-1843; United States senator, 1862-1871.

<sup>2</sup>Probably Daniel Wise, 1813-1898, author and clergyman. He was editor of the *Zion's Herald* in Boston.

door reported that he was not in his office—was in the house but had directed them to say that he could not be seen to night.

I told the boy to tell him I wished to see him a moment and went up in to his room. He soon came in. I saw in a moment that he was in distress—that more than usual trouble was pressing upon him. I introduced Mr Wise who wished to get some items for the preparation of a biography, but soon discovered that the President was in no mood to talk upon the subject. We

Pre

took our leave. When we got to the door the President called to me saying he wished to speak to me a moment. Mr Wise passed into the hall and I returned. He asked me if I was at the caucus yesterday. I told him I was and the day before also. Said he "What do these men want?" I answered "I hardly know Mr President, but they are exceedingly violent towards the administration, and what we did yesterday was the gentlest thing that could be done. We had to do that or worse." Said he "They wish to get rid of me, and I am sometimes half disposed to gratify them." I replied Some of them do wish to get rid of you, but the fortunes of the Country are bound up with your fortunes, and you stand firmly at your post and hold the helm with a steady hand—To relinquish it now would bring upon us certain and inevitable ruin." Said he "We are now on the brink of destruction. It appears to me the Almighty is against us, and I can hardly see a ray of hope." I answered "Be firm and we will yet save the Country. Do not be driven from your post. You ought to have crushed the ultra, impracticable men last summer. You could then have done it, and escaped these troubles. But we will not talk of the past. Let us be hopeful and take care of the future Mr Seward appears now to be the especial object of their hostility. Still I believe he has managed our foreign affairs as well as any one could have done. Yet they are very bitter upon him, and some of them very bitter upon you." He then said Why will men believe a lie, an absurd lie, that could not impose upon a child, and cling to it and repeat it in defiance of all evidence to the contrary." I understood this to refer to the charges against Mr Seward.

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington



He then added "the Committee is to be up to see me at 7 O'clock. Since I heard last night of the proceedings of the caucus I have been more distressed than by any event of my life." I bade him good night, and left him

Friday Decr 19, 1862 \*Old Francis P Blair came into the marble room to day and sent for me. He said Stanton & Halleck were ruining the Country, and wanted me to go the President and talk with him upon the subject. I asked if they should be removed who he thought should be called to fill their places

He said Preston King<sup>1</sup> was the best man in the Country for Secretary of War, and that Genl McClellan ought to be at the head of the army—That he was the ablest Genl in America on either side—that the army was devoted to him and would not fight under any other Genl. and that with these two both democrats and Republicans would be reconciled, and both come into the support of the Administration—That the President had ruined himself by his proclamations, and it was necessary to do something to regain the confidence of the people. That he had used his influence with the President to prevent the issuing of the proclamations but unavailingly

Afterwards Reverdy Johnson came to my seat in the Senate and told me Mr Seward had resigned, and said we would go the Devil unless a new cabinet was formed of the best material in the Country and the reins of government were held with a steadier hand than they had been. Said the cabinet must be constructed anew, as no one fit for the place would go into it with the Secretaries who remained

I expressed my regret at the step Mr Seward had taken and said I did not know who we could get to fill his place. He replied that he was the best man in America for the State Department, but he had resigned, and now there must be an entire reconstruction, and urged that I should go up immediately and talk with the President upon the subject

We had some conversation as to the proper men to go into the cabinet. I suggested Mr Collamer for Secretary of State,

<sup>1</sup>Preston King, 1806-1865. Democratic representative from New York, 1843-1847; Free Soil Democratic congressman, 1849-1853; Republican senator, 1857-1863; collector of the port of New York, 1865.

Mr Ewing of Ohio for Secretary of the Treasury, and Genl Banks for Secretary of War. He said they were excellent selections—he knew of none better except perhaps Genl Dix in place of Genl Banks, adding that Dix was a man of very fine capacity

I did not wish to thrust my opinions unsolicited upon the President, and did not go; but in the course of the afternoon I met him between the White House and War Department, and remarked to him that I had heard that Mr Seward had resigned, and asked him if it was so. He replied that he did not want that talked about at present, as he was trying to keep things along. This was all that passed

He cant “keep them along”. The cabinet will go to pieces. In conversation with Mr Ewing at night he said, in allusion to the Senate caucus that he had no doubt Chase was at the bottom of all the mischief, and was setting the radicals on to assail Seward.

He also suggested Mr Winthrop as a proper person for Secretary of State

Saturday Decr 20, 1862 Busy at the departments all day—the Senate not being in session

Sunday Decr 21 At Church in the morning. In conversation in the parlor this evening with Mr Ewing Foot, Cowan, Sheffield and Wilmot, Wilmot declared that if the rebels should lay down their arms now, and submit to the authority of the government he would not consent that the war should cease until slavery was exterminated, and that he was not willing to let the constitution stand in the way of that object

Monday Decr 22, 1862 After the adjournment of the Senate the caucus of Republican Senators again met to receive the report of the committee appointed to wait on the President upon the subject of reconstruction of the Cabinet. \*Judge Collamer laid before the Caucus a written paper which had been presented by the Committee to the President, on Thursday evening, stating that they again called on the President at his request and found all the cabinet there except Mr Seward. Chase, Blair and Bates made speeches—the others said nothing. The purport of the speeches was to prove that the cabinet did hold meetings, and did

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

\*Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

every thing properly, and that there were no dissensions among them—Mr Chase among others stating that the cabinet were all harmonious. I asked Judge Collamer how Mr Chase could venture to make such a statement in the presence of Senators to whom he had said that Seward exercised a back stair and malign influence upon the President, and thwarted all the measures of the Cabinet.

He answered "He lied."

Nothing was done in caucus except to hear the report of the committee. At night I went to the Presidents and had a conversation with him. He said he could not afford to make a new cabinet. If he did the new one would be immediately assailed as the old one was, and it would give no additional strength to our cause. I replied that this was a time of more peril than any we had yet encountered, and that all the wisdom and patriotism of the Country to save it from ruin—that by a firm, decided course in the right direction that he could even yet save himself and the Country—that he might so compound a cabinet as to reconcile all the elements of loyalty to the Administration, and suggested Mr Ewing of Ohio, Genl Banks of Mass: Mr Guthrie of Ky<sup>1</sup> &<sup>2</sup> as representatives of all parties, and means whose general views of policy I thought would harmonize. He said we must have our friends, and some of those named had not voted with us. I replied they are friends of the Country, and the very ~~for~~ fact that they did not vote with us was one of the reasons for calling them to his aid—that the Republicans could not, as a party, save the country in this crisis, nor could the democratic party. We must have the united support of all loyal men of all parties or we would fail, and in this way only could we secure that union. He then said that a cabinet composed of the class of men I had suggested would give him trouble, and be in his way on the negro question. I replied that I thought not. They would keep

<sup>1</sup>Of the men suggested by Browning for Lincoln's cabinet, Thomas Ewing, of Ohio, was a former Whig, contemporaneous with Clay (see *ante*, 485 n. 2), General Nathaniel P. Banks, of Massachusetts, had been associated with three parties (Democratic, American, and Republican), and James Guthrie, of Kentucky, was a Democrat who had been secretary of the treasury under President Pierce.

Wash-  
ington

prominently before the Country, as the great central object of the war, the suppression of the rebellion, the restoration of the Union, and the re establishment of the authority of the constitution and the laws, but would not hesitate to do, in regard to slavery, all that was necessary and proper to be done to secure these objects—but it was no doubt true that they would object to converting the war into one for the extermination of slavery leaving the Country to take care of itself. He said he believed he had rather try and get along with the cabinet he had than try a new one.

Wash-  
ington

I told him the attack in the Senate caucus upon Mr Seward was by the partizans of Mr Chase, and that I had reason to believe that he had set them on. That their game was to drive all the cabinet out—then force upon him the recall of Mr Chase as Premier, \*and form a cabinet of ultra men around him. He said with a good deal of emphasis that he was master, and they should not do that—I then left him<sup>1</sup>

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday Decr 23, 1862 Congress adjourned over to day till the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in January

Had a caucus after the adjournment but nothing was done except to give the committee power to remove the injunction of secrecy whenever they thought proper to do so—

<sup>1</sup>At this point in the diary a passage has been deleted, being first scratched and then lined with blue writing fluid. The fact that the fluid is one Browning did not use elsewhere in the diary renders it unlikely that the deletion was his work. All that can be deciphered of the passage is given below, line for line.

I.....impressed with  
the belief that the President  
does not desire a cabinet  
..... him  
that is entirely to use his own  
language ..... "running  
....." himself.  
.....his present cabinet  
.....will run it off the track  
and I.....satisfied he will  
has no other as long as  
he can avoid it

He is not equal to the  
.....  
and .....t



\*Wednesday Decr 24 As I went into the War Department to day I met P M Genl Blair. He stopped and said he was glad I was soon to be with them in the cabinet. I told him I was not aware of it—that the President had never mentioned the subject to me. He said it was settled that I was to take the Interior department. I told him I could not do it. He then said it was very important that the President should have a personal friend in the cabinet upon whom he could rely. Stanton and Halleck were heartless scoundrels and were ruining him and the Country. I was in a hurry and passed on. After tea Mr Ewing came into my room. I asked what was to be the result of this war. He answered it was impossible for any human creature to tell. The Administration was very weak and the government might be utterly overthrown

Thursday Decr 25, 1862 Spent the forenoon in writing letters. In afternoon called on Genl John Buford and his wife, and in the evening called at Mr Swards

Friday Decr 26. At the Departments in the forenoon. In P M called on Mrs Young at Floods

Saturday Decr 27 In my room at the capitol engaged in writing letters all day.

In the evening called to see Mrs John Jas Key.

Sunday Decr 28 At Church in the forenoon—Not out again

Monday Decr 29, 1862 At night went with Judge Hughes of the Court of Claims to the Presidents to talk over the case of Majr Jno Jas Key who has been dismissed the Service. After discussing that matter the President took up a pamphlet on the war by Stillé<sup>1</sup> and saying it was the best thing he had seen upon the subject added he would read some of it to me. He commenced and read the entire pamphlet. It was running a parallel between the condition of this Country and England during the Peninsular War and reasoning that there was nothing in events

<sup>1</sup>This was Charles Janeway Stillé's *How a Free People Conduct a Long War* (Philadelphia, 1862). Stillé was a member of the executive committee of the Sanitary Commission; in 1866 he was made professor of history of the University of Pennsylvania, and 1868-1880 served as provost. He died in 1899.

thus far to discourage us. It was well written, calm, sensible, and entirely free from party politics and fanaticism.

Tuesday Decr 30 At work in my room in the capitol all day.

Wednesday Decr 31. Went to dinner at 5 P M in company with Hon Mr Ewing of Ohio, with Judges Catron,<sup>1</sup> Wayne, Greer, Swain Davis, Clifford<sup>2</sup> & Miller<sup>3</sup> of the Supreme Court. There was present also Mr Seward, Rev Johnson, Hon Joseph Holt, Judge Curtis formerly of the Supreme Court,<sup>4</sup> Mr Carlisle of Washington, Caleb Cushing, Atto Genl Bates, Judge Thomas<sup>5</sup> of Mass: and Judge Black of Penna. There were in this company seven Judges of the Supreme Court, and one Ex Judge of same Court—two cabinet Ministers, and six ex cabinet ministers, one Senator and one representative in Congress

\*Marshal Lamont was also present

Some days ago I said to Judge Thomas that I thought he ought to go to the President and have a full, frank conversation with him in regard to the threatened proclamation of emancipation—that in my opinion it was fraught with evil, and evil only and would do much injury; and that I thought his

He  
opinion would have influence with the President—that he might possibly induce him to withhold, or at least to modify it, so as to make it applicable to the slaves of those in armed rebellion

<sup>1</sup>John Catron, 1778-1865. Chief justice of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, 1830-1836; associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, 1837 to his death; noted for his familiarity with laws applying to titles to western and southern lands.

<sup>2</sup>Nathan Clifford, 1803-1881. Attorney general of Maine, 1834-1838; congressman, 1839-1843; United States attorney general, 1846-1848; minister to Mexico, 1848-1849; appointed to the United States Supreme Court, 1858; presided over the commission which decided the disputed Hayes-Tilden election.

<sup>3</sup>Samuel Freeman Miller, 1816-1890. Admitted to the bar of Kentucky, 1847; moved to Iowa, 1850; appointed to the United States Supreme Court, 1862.

<sup>4</sup>Benjamin R. Curtis, 1809-1874. Justice of the United States Supreme Court, 1851-1857; one of the counsel for the defense for President Johnson at his trial before the Senate, 1868.

<sup>5</sup>Benjamin Franklin Thomas, 1813-1878. Judge of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, 1853-1859; nominated in 1868 by the Governor for the position of chief justice of Massachusetts, but not confirmed.

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

against the Government alone, and that even this would ease the administration down, and get it in the way of regaining the lost confidence of the people. He informed me to night that he had taken my advice, and had the talk but that it would avail nothing.

The President was fatally bent upon his course, saying that if he should refuse to issue his proclamation there would be a rebellion in the north, and that a dictator would be placed over his head within the week. There is no hope. The proclamation will come—God grant it may †not† be productive of the mischief I fear.

1863

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Jany 1, 1863.<sup>1</sup> I enter to day upon a new year of my existence, and desire to render my heart felt thanks to Almighty God; for the undeserved mercies and blessings he has graciously bestowed upon me during the past year, and to invoke a continuation of his kind protection and gentle dealing with me through the year upon which I am just entering.

Wash-  
ington

O Lord be merciful to me a sinner, and make me duly penitent and contrite for all the transgressions of the past, and pardon and forgive them to me, and give me of thy grace that I may live a better and more useful life hereafter than I have ever done heretofore.

Began the day by writing to my dear wife.

Then called and paid my respects at the Presidents—then called on Mrs Jno Jas Key—then at Mr I N Arnolds—then at Secretary Stantons—then at Senator Arnold's,<sup>2</sup> then at Genl N. B. Bufords and then at Secretary Swards.

Wash-  
ington

In the morning Mrs Lincoln requested me to return there at 2½ p. m. and go with her and the President riding. I did so. The President was engaged with Genl Burnside, and could not go. We drove down to a house opposite the Post office for Mrs Majr Wright of Chicago, and took her with us. On our way down there Mrs Lincoln told me she had been, the night before, with old Isaac Newton, out to Georgetown, to see a Mrs Laury, a spiritualist and she had made wonderful revelations to her about her little son Willy who died last winter, and also about things on the earth. Among other things she revealed that the cabinet were all the enemies of the President, working

<sup>1</sup>The diary for 1863 is in a book bound in plum-colored leather, with pages 5¼ by 8¾ inches, gilt edged, faint ruling in blue. There are 144 pages, all of which are used.

<sup>2</sup>Samuel G. Arnold, 1821-1880. Writer on Rhode Island history. Senator from Rhode Island, December, 1862, to March, 1863.



for themselves, and that they would have to be dismissed, and others called to his aid before he had success.

We rode out to Soldiers Home and back. Drove back to Mrs Carters and I left them. In conversation with Mr Ewing in regard to the proclamation of to day he said he thought it not improbable many of our officers would resign, and a 100,000 of our men lay down their arms.

Friday Jan'y 2, 1863 At Mr Swards to dinner at 6 P. M. No one else there

I asked him why the cabinet did so useless and so mischievous a thing as to issue the proclamations which had been issued, the only effect of which was to unite and exasperate them in the South, and divide and distract us in the North.

He replied by telling me an anecdote of a man who after the termination of the revolutionary war could not rest till he had a liberty pole raised in his village, and when asked by his neighbors what he wanted with a pole, and whether he was not as free without it as with it, he would always answer "What is liberty without a pole?" And what said he is war without a proclamation?

We played whist with Mrs Seward and Miss Fanny till 9 O'clock, and the Seward and I went over to the Presidents. We found Genl Butler there who had just arrived from New Orleans. He read to us his parting address to the people of New Orleans, and Genl Banks' proclamation upon assuming command. \*His conversation indicated that he was a very ultra abolitionist. He gave it as his opinion that the only way to put down the rebellion was to destroy slavery. This class of people do not seem to know that armed rebellion stands between us and slavery, and that to get at the latter we must first crush the former.<sup>1</sup>

Saturday Jan'y 3, 1863 This morning went to the Presidents and read him a letter from Mr Cowper of Norfolk Va, asserting that the rebels intended to make an attack on Fortress Monroe

<sup>1</sup>For further details regarding this meeting with General Butler, see entry for January 5, *post* 610.

and capture it. He asked me to leave the letter with him which I did, and he immediately sent for Genl Halleck

Sunday Jany 4 Judge Norton and I went this morning to Dr Gurley's Church. After Church the President brought me home in his carriage

A few days ago I suggested to him my fears that the rebels would send the army from Fredericksburg to unite with Bragg. I mentioned the matter this morning. He said Halleck did not think they were doing so.

Wash-  
ington

Monday Jany 5, 1863 In the evening went with Genl and Mrs Buford, and made a call at Mr Secretary Stantons

I omitted to state in the proper place that at the Presidents on Friday night Genl Butler stated in conversation that notwithstanding the destination of Genl Banks expedition was kept profoundly secret here, it was well known to the rebels in the South at least a month prior to its arrival, and that he was fully advised through rebel sources that he was to be superseded by Banks. He also stated that it was well known to Jeff Davis that he was superseded before he, Davis, issued his proclamation declaring him Butler an outlaw.<sup>1</sup>

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday Jany 6, 1863 In the evening called on Mrs Corning, Mrs Kennedy and Miss Harris.

Wednesday Jany 7 In the evening went with Judge Scates to the Presidents and then called on Genl. & Mrs Hunter

Thursday Jany 8 Running to the Departments in the morning—In Senate all day

Wash-  
ington

\*Friday Jany 9 Went at night with Admiral Foote to the Presidents to speak to him in regard to the promotion of Genls Buford & Prentiss. In conversation with the Admiral he expressed the deepest regret at the Presidents proclamations, saying they did no good, and had had the unhappy effect of reviving party strifes and dividing us in the North when unity of purpose and action were essential to success, and when such unity

<sup>1</sup>On December 24, 1862, President Jefferson Davis issued a proclamation declaring Butler an outlaw and calling for immediate hanging in case of capture. Butler had been superseded by Banks on December 17. *War of the Rebellion: Official Records*, series I, 15: 610, 906.

existed until destroyed by the proclamations. \*He added that their effect was also baneful in the army—damping their zeal and ardor, and producing discontent at the idea of fighting only for the negro. He also said that the removal of McClellan was unfortunate—that he was the ablest Genl we had—in fact the only one capable of commanding a great army, and so considered by all competent judges—that his officers and soldiers were devoted to him, and that if he had been let alone and not interfered with at all after he first took command of the army the war would now have been mainly over. He further said that he would not have much hope of any great successes until McClellan was restored

Found Senator Hale at the Presidents. Before he left the President said having two Senators present he wished to make a speech to us. He then took us to a map and pointed out the relative positions of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. He said since the proclamation the negroes were stampeding in Missouri, which was producing great dissatisfaction among our friends there, and that the democratic legislatures of Illinois & Indiana seemed bent upon mischief, and the party in those states was talking of a union with the lower Mississippi states.<sup>1</sup> That we could at once stop that trouble by passing a law immediately appropriating \$25,000,000 to pay for the slaves in Missouri—that Missouri being a free state the others would give up their scheme—that Missouri was an empire of herself—could sustain a population equal to half the population of the United States, and pay the interest on all of our debt, and we ought to drive a

<sup>1</sup>The Illinois legislature which met in January, 1863, was controlled by the anti-war Democrats. It was this legislature which chose William A. Richardson, an outspoken opponent of the Lincoln government, as Browning's successor in the Senate. On January 15, 1863, the *Jacksonville (Illinois) Journal* used this language, "The Illinois legislature has been in session one week during which time the copperheads have not uttered one loyal word, but have belched treason day and night." The temper of the legislature is shown in resolutions denouncing the policy of the Union government and naming "peace commissioners" to confer with representatives of the Confederate government in a proposed convention at Louisville. For a long time the business of state legislation was practically suspended owing to the withdrawal of the Republican minority which prevented a quorum, and finally the situation became so desperate that the intensely loyal governor, Yates, took the unprecedented step of proroguing the legislature.

stake there immediately—He said to Hale you and I must die but it will be enough for us to have done in our lives if we make Missouri free.

Wash-  
ington

\*Saturday Jan'y 10, 1863 Returning from the War Department this morning I met Senator Hale in the car. He alluded to the conversation at the Presidents last night, and said he was now satisfied that we had made a great mistake upon the slavery question, and that it would have been better both for the cause of the Country, and of emancipation in nothing had been said in regard to the negro since the war commenced

At night Norton and I went to the Senate Chamber to hear Murdock<sup>1</sup> read. He read quite a number of pieces of patriotic poetry; most of them admirably well, but *agonized* too much over others, altogether over doing them

Wash-  
ington

Sunday Jan'y 11, 1863 Norton and I went to Dr Gurley's Church in the morning. Some gentleman connected with the Colonization Society, whose name I think is Horton, preached At night I R Barret called to see me, and introduced a gentleman as Gov Kock of the Island of A'vache—an island twelve miles South of Hayti, and for which Kock claims to have obtained a charter from the Haytian government. He wishes to people it with contrabands for the cultivation of cotton, it producing, he says, the best Sea Island in great perfection, two crops per annum, and continuing to produce for ten years from one planting.

Wash-  
ington

He has entered into a contract with President Lincoln for the deportation of 5000, for which he is to receive \$50 per head. The contract was signed and delivered in duplicate. He took his copy to Mr Seward to have the great seal of State attached, and says Mr Seward will neither affix the seal nor return him the contract, nor can he get an interview with the President. He wished me to procure him access to the President.

Capt James Rice of Genl Wrights staff arrived here this morning.

Wash-  
ington

Monday Jan'y 12, 1863. Mr Ewing spent several hours in my room this evening in conversation on the State of the Coun-

<sup>1</sup>James Edward Murdoch, actor then engaged in giving readings for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission.



try. A part of the time Senator Doolittle was present. We all agreed that we were upon the brink of ruin, and could see no hope of an amendment in affairs unless the President would change his policy, and withdraw or greatly modify his proclamation. We talked of the propriety of a number of us going in a body and presenting our views, and urging as further necessary measures a remodeling of the cabinet and the recall of Genl McClellan, but we did not finally determine on this course, for we were in great doubt of its being attended with any good result. Mr Ewing said he had had a long talk with Mr Seward today who agreed with us in our views of the pernicious influence of the proclamation, and that Seward had requested him to go to Albany and confer with Gov Seymour with a view to preventing violent and injurious measures by the democracy of New York. He declined to go unless the way was paved by a change of policy in advance, as otherwise he could accomplish nothing, but if the President would make it possible for him to achieve any result he would go if I would go with him. We believe if we could bring back the democracy of New York to the support of the war it would enable to effect the same thing in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio

Tuesday Jany 13, 1863 In the Committee on Foreign affairs this morning a conversation arose in relation to French and Mexican affairs,—and the intentions of the French Emperor in regard to Mexico. Mr Sumner said Napoleon was a mystery, and no one could penetrate his designs. He then read a letter he had just received from some one in Paris, who he did not say, stating that a foreign minister had informed the writer only a few days before that Napoleon had expressed to him the most friendly feelings towards the United States, and a wish for the restoration of the Union, but his belief at the same time, that it could not be restored and that the North would fail in the object of the War. That he also said he had no purpose of permanently occupying Mexico, but that his only object was to coerce the payment of the debts due by Mexico to French citizens. Sumner

the proceeded to say that Mr Cyrus W. Field<sup>1</sup> who had just returned from Europe called on him yesterday and stated that on the eve of leaving London a distinguished French gentleman called upon on behalf of Napoleon to know whether he would undertake the laying down of a telegraph between France and Mexico; and that there was another Frenchman in London trying to procure Rail Road Iron for the construction of a road from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico. This had very much the look of permanent occupation.

Wash-  
ington

He, Sumner, then read a long letter from Mr Gladstone to Mr Field, in which he stated that his personal feelings were all in favour of a restoration of the Union, and the maintainance of the

governmen

government, and he believed it was, in every way, the interest of England that it should be restored, but he was certain the North could never succeed in suppressing the rebellion, and that the desolating and distressing war ought to cease.

He spoke in the highest terms of Genl Scott, and his letter to Mr Seward of March 3, 1861, and added that it seemed prophetic, and that we should say in the language of Genl Scott "Wayward sisters, go in peace."

Wash-  
ington

\*At night went to the Presidents with Mr Robert Bushnell, who has been dismissed from the Naval School, to try and get him reappointed. He reached here Monday morning with let-

<sup>1</sup>Cyrus W. Field, the layer of the first Atlantic cable, made frequent visits to England during the Civil War, and was in close personal touch with prominent British leaders, including Gladstone, Bright and Cobden. In 1862 and 1863 he had an interesting correspondence with Gladstone to whom he sent various books. The particular letter referred to above was written by Gladstone to Field on November 27, 1862, and after inquiry as to whether the letter might be sent to Mr. Seward at Washington, Gladstone wrote on December 2, "You are quite at liberty to make any use of it which you think proper except publication, which you would not think of . . ." In the letter Gladstone said: "had [I] the power of choosing in what way the war should end, I would choose for its ending by the restoration of the old Union this very day." He proceeded, however, to point out the impossibility of conquering the South, and declared that "when that impossibility is reasonably proved, all the horror, all the bloodshed . . . with which such a war abounds, come to lie at the door of the party which refuses to hold its hand and let its neighbor be." The full text of this letter, with a facsimile of part of it, is found in Isabella Field Judson (ed.), *Cyrus W. Field, His Life and Work* (New York, 1896), 146-149.

ters from his father soliciting my aid. I procured an order from the President for his reappointment to enter with the class on first of October

Wednesday Jan'y 14. Robert Bushnell left for home this morning

Mr Ewing in conversation in my room tonight when we were speaking of the Presidents said of Genl Taylor that he had had no experience as a Statesman, but that he was a man of naturally strong vigorous intellect, sound judgment, inflexible integrity and high sense of honor—that he always consulted his cabinet upon important public affairs, and was calm in council, just and wise in decision, and firm in purpose, and that had he lived he would have left the Country in much better condition than he found it

He also informed me that the other members of the cabinet demanded the removal of Mr Crawford on account of his connection with the Galphin Claim, and that Genl Taylor promised to remove him, and deputed Reverdy Johnson to inform him that a resignation would be acceptable, but that the kindness of his heart finally got the better of him—he said it would ruin Crawford, and appealed to the Cabinet to let him remain to which they finally consented

Mr Ewing added that the claim itself was just and properly paid, but that it was improper in Crawford to come into the cabinet interested in a pecuniary claim which would have to be passed upon by the administration of which he was a part

Thursday Jan'y 15, 1863 Vincent Ridgely of Illinois came to me today and stated that a friend of his a Mr McCarty<sup>1</sup> of Illinois who had been a Republican Candidate for Congress last fall, and some others who he did not name, had obtained permission from Jeff Davis to purchase Cotton in the South, and bring it out, by exchanging for it such commodities as the people of the South wanted. He said he did not know how they managed to get the permission, but they had, in some way, communicated with the government at Richmond, and obtained it. He wished to know of me, for his friend, whether I thought he could get

<sup>1</sup>An Elijah McCarty had run as Union candidate against John R. Eden in the Eastern Illinois District in 1862.

Wash-  
ington

a sanction of the proceeding from the War Department here. I told him to advise his friend to say nothing about it, for I thought if it came to the knowledge of Mr Stanton he would have them arrested

Friday Jany 16 In conversation with Mr Ewing today he informed me that Genl Taylor told him that at the battle of Buena Vista Bragg was in full run with his battery, and about to throw his guns into a ravine and follow them himself when he, Taylor, rode up to him, stopped him, and ordered him instantly to put his guns in battery. Bragg remonstrated saying they would all be captured but Taylor compelled him, and thus saved the day

Wash-  
ington

Saturday Jany 17, 1863 With Capt James M Rice at the Presidents in the morning—Found the President closeted with Greely—Waited till he left, and had an interview. At night called to see Judge and Mrs Davis, and talk with the Judge about public affairs. He thinks the policy of the administration upon the slavery question has made suppression of the rebellion inevitable, and ruined the Country unless there shall be an instant reorganization of the Cabinet, and a change of policy. He is to talk with the President upon the subject.

Sunday Jany 18 At Dr Gurleys Church in the morning, and not out again

Wash-  
ington

Monday Jany 19, 1863 In conversation with Judge Davis of the Supreme Court this morning he told me that he had a conversation with the President yesterday in which he represented to him the alarming condition of things, and urged upon him to reconstruct his cabinet, and change his policy, as the only means of saving the Country. The President told him that his proclamation in regard to slavery was a fixed thing—that he intended to adhere to it, and whether he changed his Cabinet must be determined by future events. The Judge thinks our cause hopeless. I have no doubt we will disasterously fail unless there is a speedy and thorough change in men and measures. Senator Hale repeated to me some days ago that we were ruined by violent and extreme measures, and that it was most unfortu-

Wash-  
ington



nate for us that there had been any discussion of the slavery question since the war began. At night attended the reading by Murdock in the Senate Chamber.

Tuesday Jan'y 20 This morning Majr Poor<sup>1</sup> who is Clerk to the Committee on Foreign relations came to my room in the Capitol, and told me that he was the correspondent for two old line Whig Newspapers—that in his correspondence he had criticized the course of the radicals, for which Mr Sumner, our Chairman, had reproved him, saying to him that he was not orthodox in his political opinions. That he Sumner was in favor of the freedom of speech and of the press, but that he Poor, would have to be dismissed as Clerk of the Committee unless he would change his course and refrain from similar censures in the future.

In conversation with Mr Ewing at night he told me that Mr Webster was the finest and most genial table companion he had ever met, but that he and Mr Clayton<sup>2</sup> and Silas Wright<sup>3</sup> all became very intemperate before their deaths, and habitually got drunk. He said that Mr Wright was a man of finer intellect and an abler and greater man than Van Buren, but the latter the best party leader.

Wednesday Jan'y 21, 1862 At night called to see Mr & Mrs Corning, and had a talk with him on the State of the Country. He is very dispendent and thinks the radical and extreme policy of the administration has made the restoration of the Union impossible in any other way than by the North Western States forming an alliance with the States of the lower Mississippi.

<sup>1</sup>Benjamin Perley Poore, 1820-1887. American journalist associated with various publications, particularly as Washington correspondent. During the war he held the commission of major of Massachusetts Volunteers, and for many years he was clerk of printing records in Washington. He produced several historical works and novels, but is important chiefly because of his annual Abridgment of United States Public Documents and the compilation of the Congressional Directory over a period of years.

<sup>2</sup>John M. Clayton, 1796-1856. United States senator from Delaware, 1829-1836, 1845-1849, and 1853-1856; secretary of state, 1849-1850; negotiator of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty.

<sup>3</sup>Silas Wright, 1795-1847. Senator from New York from 1833 to 1844; elected governor of New York November, 1844, serving until 1846.

If this were done he thinks Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey &c would soon join, and ultimately the remaining states, and that thus we might become again one people. Mr Chase's financial schemes he thinks crude and full of mischief. Indeed he thinks him a very mischievous man.<sup>1</sup>

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Jany 22, 1863. To dinner with Mr Secretary Seward at 6 P. M. Only the family present, and we had a great deal of conversation about the state of the Country.

He regretted the policy of the administration—thought the proclamations were unfortunate, and that we would have been nearer the end of the war and the end of slavery both without them, but that they were now past, and we must look to the future and do the best we could with them—Said it was not alone the abolition clamor at home that induced the President to issue them, but that he was farther influenced by the wishes of foreign Nations who could not be made to understand our condition and that the war, if successful, would necessarily put an end to slavery, and all of whom were urging that the slaves should be declared free.

Wash-  
ington

I expressed to him my fears that we must soon fail for want of an army—that the army was rapidly diminishing by desertion, sickness, killed in battle &c—that in the spring the term of service of a very large number would expire—that the dissatisfaction of the people was so great that I feared we could recruit by volunteering, and that our party divisions were now again unhappily so thorough, and party feeling so bitter and vindictive that I feared obstacles would be thrown in the way of drafting which would make that impossible. He said that drafting would not do here, and should never be resorted to. That the only true way for us to raise an army was by voluntary enlistment, and that we would have no trouble in getting all the troops we needed in that way—that we could not do it now, but that there would

Wash-  
ington

<sup>1</sup>In December, 1862, Secretary of the Treasury Chase, in order to stimulate the sale of government bonds, to provide an adequate system of bank notes issued under federal supervision, and to suppress the evils of note issues by state banks, made an elaborate proposal to Congress, out of which grew the "national banking system" which was launched by act of Congress, February 25, 1863.

soon be a reaction and enlistments would be easy in the Spring—that the stream of enthusiasm had run out now, but that it would fill up again like an exhausted river when the rains came. He said there was no prospect of foreign interference now—that France and England were jealous of each other and neither had any intention of interfering with us—

Wash-  
ngton

Friday Jan'y 23. 1863 Called at Metropolitan at night to see Mr & Mrs Marthell.

Saturday Jan'y 24 At the Departments in the morning and then in Senate all day.

\*Sunday Jan'y 25 Norton and I went this morning to Dr Gurleys Church and heard Dr Baird preach.

Wash-  
ngton

Monday Jan'y 26 \*Burnsides has resigned the command of the army of the Potomac and been succeeded by Hooker. There was a rumor in the Senate today that Genl<sup>s</sup> Sumner and Franklin refused to fight under him Hooker, and that they had both been arrested. I was uneasy about it, and after dinner, just at night went to the Presidents to learn the facts. He told me that on Saturday Burnside was here, and informed him that various causes had contributed to lose him the confidence of the army, and that he was satisfied the service would suffer by it if he continued longer in command, and he desired to relinquish it, which he did. That he the President did not know what better to do than to appoint Hooker, altho he was not satisfied with his conduct—for he was one of those who had thwarted Burnside—but he appointed him, and knowing that Sumner and Franklin did not wish to be under his command, and would not probably co operate heartily with him, he had simply relieved them of their commands, but that they had not been arrested. I remarked that from all I could learn from such men and officers of the army as I had seen Genl McClelland possessed their confidence to a greater extent than any other man, and I thought they would fight under him better than under any other Genl we had. He said McClellan stood very high with all educated military men, but the fact was he would not fight

Wash-  
ngton

I expressed the apprehension I felt from the difficulty to be encountered in recruiting our army. We must keep it up to the

Wash-  
ington

maximum allowed by law to enable us to succeed—that I feared we could not now raise soldiers by enlistment, and we were so divided, and party spirit was so rancorous that an attempt to draft would probably be made the occasion of resistance to the government. He replied that the rebel army was diminishing as fast as ours—I answered that they were united as one man, and we were fatally divided—that their government, call it what they would, was an absolute despotism to which every one yielded unquestioning obedience, and that they could put their whole force in the field—but we were and must be dependent upon the will of the people, and unless we could, in some way, regain their confidence, I feared the democrats would soon begin to clamor for compromise, and even make an effort to carry the Western states off with the South. To this he said that whenever they proposed either the people would leave them, and they would be effectually broken down &c

Wash-  
ington

\*Tuesday Jany 27 Senate continued in session till 10½ at night, having under discussion the bill to regulate judicial proceedings in certain cases, having reference especially to arrests made during the war Saulsbury became very abusive of the President and was called to order—The chair decided him out of order and required him to take his seat. He appealed from the decision—The Senate sustained the Chair and he was again required to take his seat, which he refused to do, and became very turbulent. He was ordered into the custody of the Sergeant at arms—He resisted—swore he would shoot the Sergeant and arms, and other Senators inform me drew a pistol—I did not see the pistol, but heard him threaten to shoot, and have no doubt he had one. He was very drunk. The Sergeant at arms took him into custody and the business proceeded. He ought to be expelled, and, I presume, will be

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Jany 28, 1863. Snowing this morning when I got up and has continued all day without intermission—At the Presidents at night

Wash-  
ington

\*Thursday Jany 29. Mr & Mrs Marthell, who have been down to the army, called to see me tonight. They give a sad



account of the condition of affairs—say they conversed with a great many soldiers, all of whom expressed the greatest dissatisfaction, saying they had been deceived—that the volunteered to fight for the Country, and had they known it was to be converted into a war for the negro they would not have enlisted. They think that scarcely one of the 200,000 whose term of service is soon to expire will re enlist. They state that the soldiers are unanimous in the expression of a desire for the return of Genl McClellan, believing that he is the only man competent for the command

Friday Jan'y 30. At 1½ P M today I presented the credentials of my successor in the Senate who was sworn in, and I retired. I have been impatiently awaiting his arrival, and am rejoiced at the prospect of going home, for I feel as if I could do no good here—nevertheless I felt a sentiment of sadness at leaving the Senate which I had not anticipated. My relations with all the members have been of the kindest character, and I find my attachments to them stronger than I had supposed.

\*Still I rejoice to get away for I feel that I can do no good here—The counsels of myself and those who sympathize with me are no longer heeded. I am despondent, and have but little hope left for the Republic<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Browning had but a small and uninfluential part in the last session of the 37th Congress. Since he retired on January 30, 1863, to give way to his successor, Richardson, he failed to participate in the final proceedings on some of the most important measures of the war, such as the conscription act, the habeas corpus (or indemnity) act, the captured and abandoned property act, and the national currency act. He seems to have concerned himself with the task of improving the details of legislation here and there, rather than attempting any extended expression of opinion upon the fundamental merits of the leading bills under discussion. He sought unsuccessfully, for instance, to eliminate a provision of the indemnity act of 1863 which the United States Supreme Court later invalidated as a violation of the seventh amendment of the Constitution. (See "The Indemnity Act of 1863," *Michigan Law Review*, 20: 589 ff.; *The Justices vs. Murray*, 9 *Wallace*, 274-282.) Browning's successor, William A. Richardson, was a Democrat who had been outspoken and bitter in his opposition to the Lincoln government. Richardson was chosen by the "copper-head legislature" of Illinois to complete Douglas' unexpired term, Browning's appointment having been a temporary one made by the governor during the recess of the legislature.

Wash-  
ington

Saturday Jany 31 At Mr Secretary Chase's to dinner, at 6 O'clock with Senators Foot, Cowan, Harris, Fessenden, Anthony, Doolittle and four or five other gentlemen.

In conversation before dinner Mr Chase stated that our entire debt now, including all due to the Army and Navy, did not exceed \$860.000.000

Wash-  
ington

Sunday Feby 1. 1863. \*At Dr Gurley's Church in the morning—A Dr Cook of New York preached. Went with Kennedy to dinner After tea called on Mrs Clarke Mrs Doolittle Mrs Hale Mrs Lane, Mrs Harlan, Mrs Kellogg & Mrs Smoot, at the National Hotel

\*There is a bill pending before Congress to raise a large negro force to fight our battles. Mr Ewing came to my room to night, and discussed the subject with me. We both think if it passes we will lose Ky, Tennessee, Maryland and Missouri, and that a restoration of the Union will no longer be possible

\*Wash-  
ington

Monday Feby 2. 1863 Busy with preparations for starting home—

Tuesday Feby 3 Same as yesterday

Wednesday Feby 4. Busy with preparations

Thursday Feby 5 Was snowing when I got up this morning and is still at it now 3 P. M.

I expect to start home at 5 P. M.

At 5 P M in company with Mr Eben Moore left Washington for home stopped two hours at Baltimore, and then took the cars via Harrisburg, where we changed cars at 2 O'clock at night

On the  
Road

Friday Feby 6. 1863 Breakfasted at Altoona After leaving Pittsburg were delayed by freight train being off the track a head of us—Lost several hours before the track was cleared, and soon three of our cars ran off which delayed us several hours more. Just before day the springs of the sleeping car broke, and we were obliged to quit it for another

Saturday Feby 7. Breakfasted at Fort Wayne at 12 M. Reached Chicago at 6 P. M. and stopped at the Briggs House

Chicago

Sunday Feby 8. 1863 Went over to see Emma and found her at Church. After Church brought her over to dinner with

me. Took her back to Mr Berteau's in the evening—then called at Coolbaughs—then at the Mattison House to see Mr & Mrs Erskine. Mr & Mrs Bushnell arrived here this morning \*At 11 P M took the cars for home.

Monday Feby 9 Reached home at 12 M.

Tuesday Feby 10 At home—Out but little to day.

\*Wednesday Feby 11 Asburys family with us to dinner—including Henry who is at home on furlough

Thursday Feby 12. 1863 Several inches of snow this morning, but melting away. \*Mr & Mrs Baldwin, Miss Wright, Mrs Gilpin, Mrs Murphy and Miss Feast to tea with us.

Friday Feby 13 Thawing rapidly.

\*Saturday Feby 14. Do.

Sunday Feby 15 At Church in the morning. Went at night to Congregational Church—Mr Willard's

Monday Feby 16 At work in office

Tuesday Feby 17

Wednesday Feby 18 Do—

Thursday Feby 19, 1863 At work in office—Raining gently during the forenoon—turned to snow in afternoon

Friday Feby 20 At work in office

Saturday Feby 21 Cold, wintry day—Snowing some towards night

Sunday Feby 22. At Church in the morning. In the evening called to see Orville Price, who lies low with consumption

Monday Feby 23 At work in office. At night attended party given by the Pickets at Concert Hall

Tuesday Feby 24, 1863 At work in office

Wednesday Feby 25 Attended this morning at 10½ A. M. the wedding of Adjutant Theodore Letton & Miss Mary Field. Was beautiful morning, but has turned out a rainy, dismal day.

Thursday

\*Wednesday Feby 26. At work in the office At night attended Pot Pouri of the "Sisters" at Concert Hall

Friday Feby 27 At work in office

Saturday Feby 28 At work in office

\*Quincy Sunday March 1. 1863 At Church in morning. Called at Dr Ralston's in the evening

Monday March 2 Snowing most of the day, but disappearing as it fell At work in office

\*Tuesday March 3 At work in office. At night rehearsal at our house in preparation for Pot Pouri on Thursday evening. Bushnell gone to Carthage to Court

Wednesday March 4 \*At work in Office. Cold, winter weather—Very hard frozen. At night at Concert Hall—to see rehearsal for exhibition tomorrow night

\*Quincy Thursday March 5, 1863 At work in office. At night attended the entertainment of the Sisters at Concert Hall Most beautiful tableaux of paintings and statuary I have ever seen.

\*Friday March 6 At work in office

Saturday March 7 Several inches of snow fell last night, but is rapidly passing away to day. \*Attended silver wedding of Mr & Mrs Emery at Mr Comstocks at night

Sunday March 8 At Church A. M. Not out again

Monday March 9 At work in office

Tuesday March 10 Do

\*Quincy Wednesday March 11. 1863 At work in office—Judge C B Lawrence spent the evening with me

Thursday March 12 At work in office—Wrote to Sheffield

Friday March 13 At work in office

Saturday March 14 At work in office. Beautiful day—The mildest of the season

\*Sunday March 15 At Church in morning

Monday March 16 Mrs B & I went to cemetery and had evergreens and rose bushes planted. I then worked in the garden most of the day trimming rose bushes

Quincy Tuesday March 17. 1863 Very warm. Attended funeral of George W Brown at 10½ this morning



\*Wednesday March 18 At work in office

Thursday March 19 Wrote to Cowan. At 2 P M attended funeral of Orville B Price—Woodruffs, Philips's & Stanleys with us to tea

\*Friday March 20 At work in office. In the evening had a Union meeting, of all parties, at the Court House, where I made a speech<sup>1</sup>

Saturday March 21 \*At work in office

Sunday March 22, 1863 At Church A. M. In the evening Mrs B & I called at Mr Palmers—

Monday March 23 Circuit Court commenced its session here to day

\*Tuesday March 24 Attending Court

Wednesday March 25

Thursday March 26 Attending Court part of the day.

Friday March 27. At 4 P M took the cars for Chicago. Mrs Gamble of San Francisco, formerly Miss Emily Pearson, of Quincy with her two children, traveling in company with me

Saturday March 28, 1863 Arrived here this morning at 5 O'clock, and stopped at Brigg's House After breakfast called at Mr Berteaus, and went with Emma to call on and take leave of Mrs W<sup>m</sup> H Brown and Mrs Hopper At night Genl Fitz Henry Warren<sup>2</sup> called at my room and spent an hour. He is not hopeful of our future, and cannot predict how or when the war will end. Thinks the emancipation proclamation will stand like an angel with a flaming sword in the way of our success and greatly prolong the struggle. Thinks the President weak, the army but a well organized mob, which perpetrates outrages at will on friend and foe, without from their officers, a majority of whom are unfit for command. Thinks Mr Chases financial

<sup>1</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, March 21, 1863, characterized this as a law and order meeting. Apparently this was simply political fencing between Browning and his former associate, Grimshaw.

<sup>2</sup>General Fitz Henry Warren, 1816-1878. Journalist of Burlington, Iowa; commander of volunteers during the Civil War; breveted major general.

scheme will be a failure—that it will greatly inflate the currency, expand the prices of every thing, and that the fall in the price of gold will be but temporary

Sunday March 29 Went to Church with Emma in the morning—James Flannigan of Winchester Ky called to see me in the afternoon—also R S Blackwell Esqr & his son, and Capt Jas Rice At 9 P M went over to Mr Berteaus and got Emma, went to the cars and at 11 Oclock started home.

\*Gales-  
burg

Monday March 30. 1863 Reached Galesburg before 7 A. M. I stopped over to attend meeting of the board of Trustees of Knox College, which I understood was to be held to day—Emma went on home with Capt I M Rice. The meeting of the board does not occur till tomorrow, so at 1 P M I got on the cars—went down of Knoxville & spent the afternoon with my friends Mrs Miller, and Mrs Greenleaf, Mrs G. being at Mr Millers. Took tea there, and then returned here, and staid all night at the Hotel at the Depot—

Tuesday March 31 Left Galesburg at 7 A M and reached home at noon

Quincy

Wednesday Apl 1. 1863

Mrs B. Emma & self at concert Hall to see panorama of the war last night—At work in office to day

\*Thursday Apl 2 At work in office Attended lecture by Rev Mr Milburne, the blind preacher, at Concert Hall, at night—very interesting and amusing

Friday Apl 3 Very cold. At work in office

Saturday Apl 4 At work in office—Asbury's family & Capt I M Rice and his sister Mrs Wallace with us to tea

Sunday Apl 5 At Church in A M

Quincy

Monday Apl 6. 1863 Attending Court. Old folks met our house for rehearsal, preparatory to concert, in the evening. Mrs B and I called on Mrs Martin & Mrs Cooper of Milwaukee at Mr Denmans

Tuesday Apl. 7 Attending Court Supplements met at our house at night—

Wednesday Apl 8 Attending Court

Thursday Apl 9 Mrs C B Lawrence came to day on a visit of a few days Judge Sibley dined with us

Friday Apl 10 \*Court adjourned. Hon C B Lawrence came to day on a visit. In the evening Judge & Mrs Lawrence, Miss O'Bannon and I went to Mr L Bulls to supper & a small party

uincy

Saturday Apl 11. 1863 \*In the morning Judge Lawrence & I rode to my place in 8<sup>th</sup> Street—At work in office residue of the day. Rev Mr Baker & wife with us to dinner.

Sunday Apl 12 At Church in the morning. At night went with Judge and Mrs Lawrence to Unitarian Church & hear Mr Willis preach

\*Monday Apl 13 At work in office—Judge & Mrs Lawrence, Miss O'Bannon and myself went to Henry Bull's to tea—Old folks rehearsal at our house

Tuesday Apl 14 At work in office

Judge & Mrs Lawrence left us this evening

uincy

Wednesday Apl. 15 1863 At work in office In the morning took a ride with Mrs Lawrence to my place in 8<sup>th</sup> street.

Thursday Apl 16 At work in office Attended meeting at the Court House at night which nominated Republican candidates for Mayor, Alderman &c

Jonas and others made speeches—Jonas declared that he was not willing that the rebels should lay down their arms, and come back into the Union, unless they would give up their leaders to be hung and submit to such other conditions in respect to their own persons and property, as we might choose to impose—Applauded loudly

uincy

Friday Apl 17, 1863 Very warm—At work in office—After dinner Mrs B & I rode out to see Cox who has just been brot home sick. Old folks rehearsed at our house in the evening

Saturday Apl 18. At work in office—Mrs B and I rode out to see Col Cox

Sunday Apl 19 Mrs B went out in the morning to see Col Cox—I went to Church and walked out there in the P. M. We

came home about 5 O'clock. Miss O'Bannon & I went to Mr Emerys Church at night where Mr Roberts was ordained a Minister of the Gospel, that he might take the office of Chaplain in the army

Quincy

Monday Apl 20, 1863 City election. At work in the office—Hon W<sup>m</sup> Kellogg called to see but only for a few moments, being on his way to Keokuk with Maples of Canton

Tuesday Apl 21 At work in office

Wednesday Apl 22 At work in office

\*Thursday Apl 23 At work in office—After dinner Mrs B & I rode out to Col Cox's.

Friday Apl 24 At work in office \*Old folks rehearsed at our house at night

Quincy

Saturday Apl 25. 1863 At work in office

\*Sunday Apl 26 At Church in forenoon—Not out again

Monday Apl 27 At work in office

Tuesday Apl 28 At work in office

\*Wednesday Apl 29 At work in office

\*Thursday Apl 30 Fast day, and having taken medicine the night before I remained in the house In P M Mrs B and I rode out to Col Cox's

\*Quincy

Friday May 1. 1863 At work in office.

Old folks rehearsed at our house at night

Saturday May 2. At work in office

\*Sunday May 3 At Church A. M. In P. M. Bushnell and I rode out to Col Cox's

\*Monday May 4 At work in office

Tuesday May 5 At work in office. Bushnell started to Oquawka this P M to prepare some cases for the Court there next week Rev Dr Warren, a Chaplain in the army staid at my house all night. On his way back to his Regiment

Quincy

Wednesday May 6, 1863 At work in office—

\*Thursday May 7 At 3 P. M. attended wedding of Capt Milton Kimball and Miss Charlotte Smith Frost this morning



Friday May 8. Mrs Anna Hamilton of Jacksonville arrived at our house this morning before we were up, on her way from Davenport Bushnell got home from Oquawka this morning  
\*Old folks rehearsed at our house

Saturday May 9 Mrs Hamilton left at 4 oclock this morning At work in office

Sunday May 10. 1863 At Church in the morning, and not out again

Monday May 11 At work in office. Bushnell started to Oquawka, to attend Court, this P. M.

Tuesday May 12 Senator Nesmith of Oregan called to day and spent several hours with me. We had much talk about Genl Hooker. Nesmith knows him well, and it was at his solicitation he was appointed a Brigadier He says Hooker is an accomplished soldier, but no business capacity, or capacity for any thing outside of the profession of arms. That as a Brigade or division commander he has few equals, but that the chief command of a great army is beyond his ability—That in private life he was a kind hearted, unassuming gentleman—That he had resigned his commission in the army and purchased a farm in Oregon, and failed in his management of it and become poor, and dependent upon his friends, who procured him the superintendence of one of the Military roads which was being constructed to the Pacific coast, and in this way he eked out a living—That professionally he was somewhat conceited, and that his conceit had been largely developed by his appointment to the command of the army—  
\*That he was so constituted that he could not give hearty support to, or speak well of any one above him in command, believing that he himself ought to have the first place. He was, and always had been a democrat attached to the Douglass wing of the party.

He, Nesmith, also knew M<sup>c</sup>Clellan well. M<sup>c</sup>Clellan was greatly the superior of Hooker—indeed he believed him the ablest Genl in America, and had no doubt that if he had been permitted to conduct the army in his own way, without interference, the war would have been over.

Wednesday May 13 At work in office

Thursday May 14 At work in office

\*Friday, May 15 At work in office. Mrs B & I rode out to Col Cox's in the evening Old folks rehearsed at our house at night

Quincy Saturday May 16. 1863 Bushnell returned from Oquawka this morning. \*At 5 P M I took the cars for Chicago where I am going to attend Court

May

Chicago Sunday ~~Apr~~ 17 Reached Chicago at 6 O'clock this morning—stopped at the Briggs House—room No: 33. Went to old school Church on the South side at 11 A. M. At 3 P M attended the funeral of R S Blackwell Esqr who died on Friday, aged about 40 years—just when he should have been in the zenith of his fame and usefulness. He was a man of rare endowments, but his high social qualities led him into bad habits, and they shortened his life. I became interested in him when he was thirteen or fourteen years old—He was then a fatherless boy. I finally took him into my office, where he read law, and afterwards attained to great eminence in his profession. I rode out to the cemetery with Sam W Fuller Esqr. In the evening Senator Trumbull called to see me. I had much talk with him upon the situation of public affairs. He is much dissatisfied and thinks matters are going about as badly as they can. He is opposed to all arbitrary arrests of citizens by military authority—thinks with me that they are unwarrantable, and are doing much injury, and that if they continue unchecked the civil tribunals will be completely subordinated to the military, and the government overthrown

Chicago Monday May 18, 1863 Attending Court in forenoon At night called to see Mrs Blackwell and family

Tuesday May 19 In Court during forenoon. Called to see Mrs Winton in the afternoon, and doing errands \*At 8 O'clock took the cars for home, and went to bed and slept thro' the night

Wednesday May 20 Reached home at 9. A M—At work in office

Thursday May 21 At work in office

Friday May 22 At work in office. Old folks rehearsed at our office †house†

Quincy Saturday, May 23. 1863 At work in office. In conversation with Grimshaw to day he justified the arrest and trial of private citizens by military authority—He did not pretend that there was any warrant for it in the constitution or laws, but said they deserved punishment—that the law would not reach them and that therefore it was necessary for the military power to do it—adding that he was not afraid of being arrested himself I replied that these arrests were illegal and arbitrary, and did more harm than good, weakening instead of strengthening the government—but he thought not. I suggested that the substitution of military for civil authority was virtually an overthrow of the Government. This he did not controvert, but seemed rather glad that it was so. At 5 P M attended the funeral of R R Erskine who died in St Louis and was brought here for interment

Sunday May 24 At Church in A. M. and not out again

Monday May 25 At work in office—Bushnell went this morning to Hancock Court \*In the evening Mrs B and I rode out to Col Cox's, and afterwards called on Mrs Kimball

Tuesday May 26 At work in office

Wednesday May 27 At work in office. \*Sat up till 1 O'clock at night awaiting arrival of Philharmonics from Jacksonville—but none of them came to our house

Quincy Thursday May 28. 1863 After breakfast took a ride with Miss Huntington of Springfield—then at work in office. Bushnell at home from Carthage Court—came down last night \*At night attended Concert at Pinkham Hall given by the Philharmonic Society of Jacksonville, Mr. Buckley of Jacksonville, staying with us.

Friday May 29 At 1 P M went with Mrs Grubb, Miss OBannon & Emma to an entertainment at Gov Woods House given by the Sisters of the good Samaritan to the Jacksonville visitors At night attended Concert at Pinkham Hall

\*Quincy Saturday May 30 1863 At work in office. Mr Buckley left to day and Mr McConnell & Mr Strycker of Jacksonville & Miss Huntington of Springfield came

Sunday May 31. At Church in the morning, and at night went with Miss OBannon and Miss Huntington to Mr Kings Church and heard Prof Hayden of the Theological school, of the Congregational Church, at Chicago—Common place sermon Misses McConnell & Strycker left this P. M.

Quincy Monday June 1. 1863 At work in office. At night small party of youngsters at our house to meet Miss Huntington

\*Tuesday June 2 At 5½ P M started to Springfield to attend U S Court. Miss Huntington accompanied me, on her return home. Reached Springfield at 11½ at night. I went to American Hotel but could not get a room occupied a bed in No 39.

Wednesday June 3. This morning engaged a room in Joel Johnsons building, and so far am comfortable, but have made no arrangement for eating. Dined at Judge Treats in company with Judge Davis, Mr Weldon, & Antrim Campbell,

Spring-  
field

The suppression of the Chicago times which has just been ordered by Genl Burnside was a subject of conversation.<sup>1</sup> We all agreed that it was a despotic and unwarrantable thing, and most inexpedient even if it had been lawful, and calculated to produce civil war in the State. All agreed that Judge Drummond who had been applied to for the purpose, should, at once, grant an injunction to restrain the Military authorities from interfering with the publication Judge Davis said if the application had been made to him, he would not hesitate to grant it. He has been telegraphed to and will go to Chicago to night to sit with Drummond

\*Spring-  
field

Thursday June 4. 1863 Attending Court in forenoon. Took dinner with Gus Harrington at Dool's—Took tea at Mr Ridgelys, and in the evening attended a party at Robt Irwin's

<sup>1</sup>The *Chicago Times*, a paper whose violent attacks upon the government and its war policy caused it to be boycotted by the Chicago Board of Trade, was temporarily suppressed by military order of General Burnside on June 1, 1863, without the knowledge of President Lincoln, who immediately revoked the order of suppression. A. C. Cole, *The Era of the Civil War (Centennial History of Illinois, 3)*, 303-304.



Friday June 5. Judge Davis gone to Chicago—Judge Treat not very well, and we did no business in Court—Dined with Singleton at Brady's in company with Judge O C Skinner & Beckwith

Saturday June 6 In conversation to day with Senator Trumbull he spoke in terms of condemnation of the order for the suppression of the times, and of the military arrests of civilians—thought them all unwarrantable arbitrary, and of evil tendency

Took tea this evening at Mrs Grimsley's with Dr & Mrs Brown.

\*Sunday June 7. Went with Mrs Grimsley to 3<sup>rd</sup> Presbyterian Church in morning and home with her to dinner. Attended Dr Brown's Church at night

Monday June 8 Busy with my cases. After tea called at Jack Smiths

Tuesday June 9 Attending Court

Wednesday June 10 Attending Court. Took tea at Mr Hays with Judge Davis Mr Weldon & Mr Grimshaw

Thursday June 11, 1863 Attending Court

Friday June 12 Attending Court. In the evening called at Gov Yate's and Mr Gibsons

Saturday June 13 Have closed my business in Court, and am making arrangements to leave for home this P. M. \*Left Springfield between 4 & 5 P M and reached home at 10 P. M. Grimshaw and Miss Walters in company

Sunday June 14 At Church A M. In the evening Union meeting at Mr Pipers Church, at which Mr Millard preached

Monday June 15. 1863. At work in office. Wrote to Hon Thos Ewing

Tuesday June 16 After breakfast rode out to 8<sup>th</sup> Street with Judge Sibley—\*At work in office—Old folks met at our house at night.

Wednesday June 17 At work in office

Thursday June 18 At work in office. In the P M Bushnell & I out in 8<sup>th</sup> Street examining with a view to division of property with Cox.

\*Friday June 19 At work in office. At night Mrs B. Emma, Miss O'Bannon & myself went to Pinkham Hall to hear Miss Greenwood, or the black Swan. She is a large, fat negro woman, but sings magnificently. The only one I ever heard who was superior to her was Jenny Lind

\*Quincy Saturday June 28, 1863 At work in office

Sunday June 21 At Church in A M. In evening attended at Mr Emerys Church. Union meeting. Mr Piper preached

Monday June 22. \*At 5½ P M took the cars for Galesburg to attend Commencement at Knox College. \*Reached there at 10 and went home with Mr Pitcher, who met me at the depot.

Tuesday June 23 Board of Trustees in session most of the day. Dined at Selden Gale's and took tea at Dr Candees Staid all night at Mr Pitchers.

\*Gales-  
burg

Wednesday June 24 1863 Board in session till 10 A M. Then attended exercises at the Church, where a class of ten young ladies was graduated. The performances of the young ladies, each one of whom read an essay were highly creditable and satisfactory Rev Mr Mattoon of Rockford then delivered an address—not equal in merit to those of some of the young ladies Board met again at 4 P. M. and continued in session till nearly night. Dined and took tea at Dr Candee's, and staid all night at Mr Pitchers

Gales-  
burg

Thursday June 25. 1863 Board met in the morning and continued in session till 10 A. M. when we adjourned to attend the exercises at the Church. Graduated a class of five young gentlemen, and inaugurated Rev Mr Curtis as President of the College.<sup>1</sup> This inaugural address was a very fine production—well written, and well delivered, evincing more than ordinary ability. Board met at 4 P. M. and continued in session till nearly night,

<sup>1</sup>The Reverend William Stanton Curtis. President of Knox College, 1863-1868, succeeding the Reverend Harvey Curtis.

when we adjourned *sine die*. Dined and took tea at Dr Candee's, and stayed all night at hotel at depot

Friday June 26. 1863 Left Galesburg at 5 A. M. and reached home at 9.

Saturday June 27 At work in office

Sunday June 28. Attended church in morning. At night went to Mr King's Church, and heard Dr Nelson of St. Louis, preach a political sermon. Thinks the war can never end till slavery is exterminated. A well written, but one idea discourse, and not fit for the pulpit or the Sabbath George McConnell of Jacksonville to dinner with us yesterday and to day.

Monday June 29 1863 At work in office. Old folks rehearsed at my house at night

Tuesday June 30 At work in office My brother in law Dr Robertson of Kentucky arrived here last night, and came to my house this morning \*Mrs Browning, Emma, Miss O'Bannon and myself took tea at Col Cox's Heavy thunder storm about night

Wednesday July 1. 1863 Dr Robertson left here this morning for his farm near St: Jo: Mo: At work in office

Thursday July 2 At work in office

Mrs Kennedy of St Louis & her two little girls arrived on a visit this evening Miss OBannon & I spent the evening at Gilpins with Col & Mrs Cox & Mrs Col Haines

Friday July 3. At work in office—Misses Alice & Anna Candee of Galesburg arrived at 10 O'clock to night, on a visit. I met them at the cars

Saturday July 4, 1863 I delivered an oration to day to an immense crowd in Washington square. Occupied an hour & a quarter in delivery—Was never more complimented on a speech. Men of all parties and classes seemed pleased—indeed delighted. They voted to have ten thousand copies published, for distribution, and took up a subscription to defray expenses. M B Denman read the declaration of Independence

Sunday July 5 At Church in the morning, and Miss Anna Candee and I went to Centre Congregational Church at night

Quincy  
Monday

Monday July 6. 1863 At work in office

Tuesday July 7. Mrs Col Haynes, of St Louis, Col & Mrs Cox & Mrs Gilpin with us to breakfast \*Old folks rehearsed at night

Wednesday July 8 At work in office. Judge Lawrence with us to dinner. Great crowd up between 11 & 12 O'clock at night, jubilating over the fall of Vicksburg, and the successes of Meade's army<sup>1</sup>—I was not well, and would not make a speech

Quincy

Thursday July 9, 1863 At work in office At night attended concert at Pinkham Hall given by the Old folks

Friday July 10 Col George P Ihrle arrive on a short visit this morning. Grand celebration at night in honor of the victory at Vicksburg. City brilliantly illuminated—Grand torch light procession, with about 1000 people from Missouri After the procession they assembled in Washington square, where there was singing and some speaking. I made a speech of 15 or 20 minutes. Good Samaritans & Pickets<sup>2</sup> had a Bazar on the square where they sold refreshments.

Quincy

Saturday July 11. 1863 At work in office

Sunday July 12 At Church morning & evening. Union meeting at our Church at night, and Rev Mr Emery preached

Monday July 13 \*At 5.30 P. M. I took the cars for Chicago to attend U S Court. Misses Alice and Anna Candee, of Galesburg, who have been with us on a visit for about ten days, left with me Miss Alice stopped at Bardolph to visit Mr Hoagland's family, and Miss Anna came on home Left Mrs Kennedy, of St Louis, and her children, at my house.

Chicago

Tuesday July 14. 1863 Reached here to Breakfast and stopped at Briggs House, room No: 9. Attended Court but did nothing

\*Wednesday July 15 Attending Court

Thursday July 16 Attending Court

<sup>1</sup>The *Quincy Whig*, July 9, 1863, gives the same report.

<sup>2</sup>The Good Samaritans and the Needle Pickets apparently were rival war relief societies on not too good terms with each other. *Quincy Whig*, March 27, 1863.



Friday 17

~~Thursday~~

Saturday 18 Attending Court

\*Sunday July 19 At South Presbyterian Church in the morning, and heard the pastor, Mr Harsha, preach. At same church at night—some stranger preached

Chicago Monday July 20. 1863 Attending Court—Called on Mrs Winton at night

Tuesday July 21 Attending Court. At night went to the Theatre and heard Warren, who is fine in low Comedy, in the character of Bathins—member of Mass Legislature from Cranberry Centre—'Twas well done and extremely amusing.

Wednesday July 22 Attending Court. At night went to Winton's with Hopper, and played Eucre

Thursday July 23 Attending Court. Robt Forsythe and his wife called in their carriage for me at 5 P. M. and I went there to tea

Chicago Friday July 24. 1863 Attending Court. At Judge Drummonds to dinner at 6 P. M. with Judge Davis & a Mr Carter, an Englishman from somewhere

Saturday July 25 Closed my business in Court to day and expect to start home tomorrow night

Sunday July 26 Took medicine last night and was not out to Church to day At 8 O'clock P. M. took the cars for home, and went to bed

Monday July 27. Reached home at 9 O'clock this morning

Tuesday July 28. 1863

At work in office

Quincy \*Wednesday July 29. At work in office. Just before night I received a letter from Mrs Dr Gilmer, saying her husband had been arrested by a party of soldiers at 3 O'clock Tuesday morning—for what offence she did not know, and carried off she did not know where, and asking me to aid her in procuring information, which I will cheerfully do At 10 P. M. went to Mr M<sup>o</sup>Fadons for Miss Sue Sherman, who was there at a party, and

was to stay all night with Emma. Had a very fine rain to day—Commencing at 3 in the morning and continuing, at intervals, through the day

Quincy

Thursday, July 30. 1863 This morning called on Capt James Woodruff, Provost Marshal of this District, in regard to the arrest of Dr Gilmer, and was informed by him that he had no connection with it, nor participation in it, and did not know for what cause it was made, but understood it to have been done by order of Genl Ammen, and that the Dr had been taken to Springfield to be delivered to the Genl. I then wrote to Hon John T Stuart of Springfield for information

\*Friday July 31 At home getting ready to go to the Springs tomorrow

Mineral  
Springs

Saturday Augt 1. 1863 At 5 Oclock this morning Mrs Browning, Emma, Miss O'Bannon, Johnny & myself took the cars for Versailles on our way to the Springs in Pike County. At Versailles Miss OBannon, Emma & Johnny got in a hack with other company, and went on to the Springs. It would not carry us all, and Mrs Browning and I had to go in a road wagon with Jo Townsend. The day was very hot, and, of course, the ride very fatiguing and disagreeable Mrs B. suffering with a violent head ache. We reached the Springs at 10½ A. M. but could get no room, every place being filled. We then drove on to Perry but could not get into the hotel there, it being full. I succeeded in getting rooms at Mr Cleveland's where we took up our lodgings for the time being

Mineral  
Springs

Sunday Augt 2. I attended old school church this morning—preaching by the pastor Mr Brown Mrs Browning was not out—

Monday Augt 3. About sun rise this morning Miss O'Bannon, Emma, Johnny and myself went down to the Springs in the Stage. They succeeded in getting accommodations and remained. In the morning I called at Mr Moores in the neighbourhood, and in the P M returned to Perry. Jake Smith took me up

Mineral  
Springs

Tuesday Augt 4 1863 About day break Mrs Browning and I came down to the Springs in the Stage. I have procured a

room off the end of the ball room and we will remain here. As we came down I bot a horse of Kellogg, the stage driver, for which I am to pay him \$95—

Wednesday Augt 5

Thursday 6

Friday 7

Saturday 8 At the Springs drinking water and idling—Nothing special occurring Baldwin & his wife & Mrs Henry Bull arrived to day

Sunday 9 Jonas took a warm bath early this morning & has been unwell all day—

Monday Augt 10, 1863 Jonas had a high fever last night, and is very ill this morning. Entirely imbecile—knows nothing—is very feeble and nervous, and seems to be in danger of paralysis or congestion of the brain. I consider him in a very perilous condition. I telegraphed Sam Jonas (sending it by messenger to Meredosia) to come here immediately and bring physician—I sent hack to Versailles to meet him at night. The night was very dark, stormy, thunder, lighting & heavy rain, but the hack got back here at 10½ at night with Mrs Jonas, Sam Jonas & Dr Ralston.

Tuesday Augt 11. 1863 Yesterday I got Dr Kinkle of St Louis, who is staying here, to take charge of Jonas, and minister to him, and by night his condition was improved, and his symptoms more favorable. Between two and three O'clock to day he started home in company with his wife, Sam Jonas & Dr Ralston. He is considerably better than he was yesterday, being sometimes conscious, and for a few moments recognizing persons.

A bed was fixed in a coach on which he was carried to Versailles where he took the Rail Road. At night I made a speech at Perry on the state of the Country. Rev Mr Cool took me there & brought me back

Wednesday Augt 12. 1863 Mr & Mrs Stone of Quincy arrived this morning

Thursday Augt 13 After breakfast put my horse Major in Mr Stone's buggy, and Mrs Browning and I drove to Perry and called at Mr Clevelands, Rev Mr Brown's & Rev Mr Cool's. Picknick of the Sunday schools from Griggsville at the Springs to day Senator Green & myself made brief speeches

Friday Augt 14 Mrs I T Holmes, Miss Anna Holmes, Miss Alice Bull & Miss Mary Jane Stone of Quincy arrived this morning

Mineral  
Springs

Saturday August 15. 1863

Sunday 16 Nothing particular.

Monday Augt 17 Johnny started home at 4 O'clock this morning to prepare for the rest of us. We all expect to go Wednesday morning

\*Tuesday Augt 18 Preparing to leave tomorrow Henry Bull with his two little girls & Mr Emerys little son arrived at 1 P M. He Drove out in a carriage

\*Wednesday Augt 19 At 3 O'clock this morning Mrs Browning, Miss OBannon, Emma & myself left the Springs in Baldwins hack—Drove to Versailles, took the Rail Road & reached home at 9 A. M.

\*Quincy

Thursday Augt 20. 1863 At work in office

Friday Augt 21 At work in office After breakfast Mrs B & I rode out to Cox's with my new horse Majr—and took another ride with in the evening.

John Browning from the hospital with us to dinner

Saturday Augt 22 At work in office

\*Sunday Augt 23 At Church in A M—Called with Bushnell to see Jonas in the evening

\*Monday Augt 24 At work in office. In the evening Mrs B & I rode out to Col Cox's

\*Quincy

Tuesday Augt 25. 1863 At work in office

Wednesday Augt 26 Took medicine last night & at home sick to day

Thursday Augt 27 At 5 O'clock this morning Emma & Miss O'Bannon started to the Springs. I went as far as Clayton to



attend a political meeting which was held in a grove two miles East of Clayton. Was a very fine pick nick—1500 or 2000 people present. Before dinner I addressed them for 2¼ hours—after dinner speeches were made by Genl Prentiss & Mr Sample, a Methodist preacher. Very cold—had to wear my over coat all day. Took breakfast and supper at Mrs Wallaces—Got home at 10 O'clock at night

Quincy Friday Augt 28 1863 At work in office, and attending political meeting in Washington square where Professor Saunders of Jacksonville made a demagogueing speech—Cold—fire necessary to comfort.

Saturday Augt 29 Took Jonas out riding this morning At work in office

Sunday Augt 30 At Church in A. M. Rev Stephen Phelps preached

Monday Augt 31 Johnny started to the Springs this morning in company with Rob & Mary Bushnell \*At work in office After dinner took a long ride with Mrs B

Quincy Tuesday Sept 1, 1863 At work in office Sam Glover, of St Louis, called to day, and we talked of public affairs for two hours—He fully agrees with me in my views

Wednesday Sept 2 At work in office

Thursday Sept 3 At work in office

Friday Sept 4 At work in office Mrs B & I took tea at Mr Stones in company with some other friends

Saturday Sept 5 At work in office \*Old folks rehearsed at our house at night

Quincy Sunday Sept 6. 1863 Attended Church in A. M. but not out again

Monday Sept 7 At work in office. Bushnell went this P. M. to Macomb to Court. Old folks rehearsed at our house at night. Miss O'Bannon, Emma & Johnny got home from the Springs at 10 O'clock at night.

\*Tuesday Sept 8 At work in office

\*Wednesday Sept 9 At work in office. Wrote to Hon Preston King

\*Thursday & Friday Sept 10 & 11<sup>th</sup> At work in office

\*Quincy

Saturday Sept 12, 1863 At 12 O'clock to day took passage on the steamer Die Vernon for St Louis, on my way to Hillsboro, to defend suits brought against Phillips, the Marshal, for arbitrary arrests under direction of the Secretary of War

Sunday Sept 13 Heavy fog last night and we had to tie up about thirty miles above Alton. The fog did not lift till near 10 O'clock, and we did not reach St Louis till 1. O'clock P. M. I stopped at Planters House, and found Mr Grimshaw there who is to go with me to Hillsboro. After tea called on Mrs Barrets family

\*Hills-  
boro

Monday Sept 14. 1863 Early this morning Mr Grimshaw and I took the cars on the Terrehaute Road. At Alton we picked up Mr Phillips, and reached Hillsboro at 10 A. M. Stopped at Mr Roods tavern

Tuesday Sept 15 This P. M. I argued a motion to remove the cases against Phillips to the U S Circuit Court. In the evening called on Mrs Holmes & her daughters.

Wednesday Sept 16 At day break Phillips, Grimshaw & myself took the train going West. They stopped at Alton. I continued on to St: Louis, and took passage on the steamer Jeannie Deans for home

\*Quincy

Thursday Sept 17. 1863 Stormed last night, and we had to tie up—hence did not get home till 6 O'clock P. M.

Friday Sept 18 At work in office

\*Saturday Sept 19 At work in office

Sunday Sept 20 At Church in A. M. During my absence at Church, I was sent for to go to Dr Mortons to see the Hon Archibald Williams of Kansas, who was there very sick. I went at 12 O'clock and found him past hope of recovery. Remained with him till 4 P M and went home to dinner taking Judge C B Lawrence with me. At 5 P. M. went back and remained with Judge Williams till 9 P. M. and left him, for the night. He had a few lucid intervals thro the day

quincy

Monday Sept 21 1863 Before I arose this morning I was sent for to go to Dr Morton's, I reached there quarter past 6 A. M. He died just before my arrival—I was informed by those who were with him through the night that he neither spoke nor gave signs of consciousness after I left him last night At 2 P M a meeting of the bar was held in the Court room presided over by Hon C B Lawrence, and resolutions expressive of our estimation of the deceased, and sorrow for his loss adopted. We also resolved to attend the funeral in a body at 10 O'clock A. M. on Wednesday morning next

quincy

Tuesday Sept 22. 1863 At work in office

Wednesday Sept 23 At 10 O'clock A M attended the funeral of Hon Archibald Williams

\*Thursday Sept 24 At work in office

Friday Sept 25 At work in office Senator Doolittle & wife of Wisconsin arrived to day on a visit—took him out riding in P. M.

\*Saturday Sept 26 Rode with Doolittle in A M to Leonards Spring Took tea with them & others at Bushnells

Sunday Sept 27 Went with Mr & Mrs Doolittle to the baptist Church in the forenoon

quincy

Monday Sept 28, 1863 Bushnell went this morning to Lewistown to attend Court \*At night I attended a meeting at Pinkham Hall, addressed by Senator Doolittle

Tuesday Sept 29 At 5 O'clock this morning Mr & Mrs Doolittle took their departure for home. Emma went with them as far as Chicago to resume her studies at Mr Berteaus school My brother in law Dr Robertson arrived from Buchanan County, Mo: this morning on his way to Kentucky At night Mrs Browning, Miss OBannon and myself attended reading of Shakespeare by Hackett at Pinkham Hall

quincy

Wednesday Sept 30, 1863 Called on Hackett to day and spent an hour very pleasantly with him. His conversational powers are good, and he is full of amusing and interesting anecdotes. Showed me autograph letters from many distinguished men, including Mr Clay, J Q Adams, Edward Everett,

Abbott Lawrence, J P Kennedy, Washington Irving Earl Carlisle, Louis Napoleon & others, most of them commenting upon Shakespeares Characters, and his, Hacketts, personation of them Dr Robertson left this evening for Kentucky

\*Quincy Thursday Oct 1. 1863 At work in office Miss OBannon and I out to large party at Mr Kellers at night

Friday Oct 2 At work in office \*After dinner called with Mrs Browning at Mr Seamans & Asburys

Saturday Oct 3 At work in office

\*Sunday Oct 4 Attended Church in morning. Mr M'Connell preached. Col Prince & young Mr Pitney at my house in evening. My horse Majr was stolen from my stable last night, and brot home by some boys this evening, who reported that they found him tied to a wagon out a mile or two from here

Quincy Monday Oct 5, 1863 Bushnell went to Hancock court this morning At work in office. After dinner Mrs B & I called at Mr Lorenzo Bulls

Tuesday Oct 6 At work in office

Wednesday Oct 7 At work in office After dinner took a ride with Commander De Krafft of the Navy

\*Thursday Oct 8 At work in office Miss Ann Ballard came to our house on a visit to day, and at night she and I went to concert Hall, and heard a jacobinical speech from the Rev Mr King on the Lawrence Massacre

Quincy \*Friday Oct 9. 1863 At work in office Mrs Gov Wood died last night

Saturday Oct 10 At work in office

Sunday Oct 11. At Church in forenoon. At 2 P M attended funeral of Mrs Gov Wood. Took Mrs Bushnell with me in my buggy to the Cemetary Mr Stryker, of Jacksonville, with us to dinner

\*Monday Oct 12 Between 5 & 6 Oclock P M took R R for Springfield on my way to St Louis to meet Hon Thos Ewing of Ohio, in regard to law partnership about being formed between him, Cowan, Hill & myself Reached Springfield before mid-night & stayed at Goodells



St Louis Tuesday Oct 13, 1863 Left Springfield about day and reached St Louis at 10 or 11 O'clock A. M. Stopped at Planters house, room 31.

Louis Wednesday Oct 14 Called at Mrs Barrets this morning. Mr Ewing arrived at noon—stopped at Planters. I was to day employed in a very large Rail Road case Ross, Steele & Co vs Union Pacific R R Co,<sup>1</sup> for Pltfs They are to pay me a retainer of \$250 for arguing motion for Injo: and if motion allowed and Injo: granted \$750 more making \$1000. If the motion is not argued here tomorrow, but postponed till another time then I am to be paid \$500 for arguing the motion if the Injo: is refused, If granted \$1000 as above, and the question of amount of fee for going on with the case is to remain open. They offered me \$10.000 in first mortgage bonds on the Rail Road which I declined

Thursday Oct 15 This morning Mr Ewing who appears for the Rail Road entered a motion to discharge a restraining order which had been granted by the Judge to prohibit sale & transfer of bonds &c The motion was argued by Mr Ewing for the Rail Road, and by Jas F Joy & myself for Ross & Co. The Judge refused the motion and appointed Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> for hearing the motion for Injo: before him at Keokuk

Louis Quincy Friday Oct 16. 1863 At 6½ this morning left St Louis for home via Springfield where I arrived at 11. Stopped at Chenery's. After dinner rode out with Hatch to Dubois' At 5½ P M took the cars for home. Ten miles out from Springfield the loco motive gave out, and we had to wait two hours till they sent back to Springfield for another Reached home between 11 & 12 O'clock at night

Saturday Oct 17 At 5½ P M took the cars for Chicago—Capt DeKrafft of the Navy in company on his way to Philadelphia to take Command of one of the new blockading steamers which have just been built

<sup>1</sup>Ross vs. Union Pacific Railway Co. is reported in *Federal Cases*, number 12080. The case involved a contract for building a railroad in Kansas, and was lost by Browning's client.

\*Chicago

Sunday Oct 18, 1863 Arrived here at 6½ this morning—stopped at Briggs House. After breakfast went over to Mr Berteau's to see Emma, & then went to Church at North Presbyterian After dinner called on Judge Kellogg & his wife at Tremont House—And then Emma and I called at Judge Drummonds \*At 10 Oclock at night took the cars on Central R R for Mattoon on my way to Paris in Edgar County to defend Phillips, the Marshal, who is Indicted there for arrests made by order of the Secretary of War

Monday Oct 19 Reached Mattoon at 6 A. M. left at 1 P. M. and arrived at Paris at 3 P. M.

Paris

Tuesday Oct 20. 1863 Dined at Amos Greenes with Judge Constable and Mr Smith of Terrehaute After dinner argued motions to remove the Indictments vs Phillips to the Circuit Court of the United States

Wednesday Oct 21 At 11 A M Phillips and I took the cars for Pana on our way home. \*Reached Pana about 2 P. M. and remained till 4—then took the cars on the Illinois Central for Decatur and reached there about 6 where we had to remain till after midnight. We called on Genl Oglesby and spent an hour or two with him at Mr Waits Office

Quincy

Thursday Oct 22, 1863 At 2 A M took cars on the Great Western Road for home where I arrived at 10 A. M. At work in the office till bed time preparing for the argument of the case of Ross, Steele & Co, vs Union Pacific R R Co, before Judge Miller at Keokuk tomorrow Had to delin attending the wedding of Miss Mary Palmer, who was married to day to Mr James Brawner Snowed some to day

Friday Oct 23 At 5 A M took care for Keokuk where I arrived at 12 Stopped at Deming House Mr Ewing & Mr Joy arrived yesterday, and the case was progressing

Keokuk

Saturday Oct 24 1863 This P M I made my argument in the case of Ross, Steele & Co vs the Rail Road Co, occupying 2½ hours after dinner, and a half hour before

\*Sunday Oct 25 At old school Presbyterian Church in the morning Rev Mr Craig preached After tea went to Judge Miller's and spent the evening

Monday Oct 26 Mr Stinson, for Defendants, made his argument to day

Tuesday Oct 27 Mr Ewing was too unwell to go to the Court house—The Judge came to his room at 10 A. M. and he sat in his chair and made his argument In P M Mr Joy concluded the argument for Compts and the case was submitted

Wednesday Oct 28. 1863 Called this morning on Mrs Taylor—At 11 A M Judge Miller delivered his opinion refusing the Injunction asked on the ground that the Contract was incapable of specific execution, and that there was an adequate remedy at law \*At 3 P M took the cars for home where I arrived at 9½ P M

Thursday Oct 29 At work in office

Friday Oct 30 At work in office. Rained all day yesterday—sleeted last night, and snowing some to day Very disagreeable

Saturday Oct 31 At work in office

Sunday Nov 1. 1863 At Church A. M. At night went to Central Congregational Church and heard excellent Sunday school address from Mr Paxton

Monday Nov 2 At work in office

Tuesday Nov 3 At work in office

Wednesday Nov 4 At work in office

\*Thursday Nov 5 At 5.30 P. M took the cars for Chicago

Friday Nov 6 Reached Chicago at 6½ A M Stopped at Briggs House Room No 203 Attended Court in the forenoon, and went to the North Western Fair<sup>1</sup> in the afternoon

<sup>1</sup>The fair which Browning attended in Chicago was one of a series of sanitary fairs conducted throughout the country by the Sanitary Commission for the benefit of the soldiers. The fair at Chicago yielded \$59,000, and "there was scarcely any branch of industry that was unrepresented by gifts." *New York Semi-Weekly Tribune*, November 20, 1863.

## Chicago

Saturday Nov 7. 1863 Last night went to Metropolitan Hall, and heard Miss Dickinson make a political speech.<sup>1</sup> She is not distinguished for her logic, but possesses a good deal of talent for declamation. Her diction fair and her manner quite impressive. Her matter I think calculated to do more harm than good, consisting chiefly in appeals to prejudice and calculated only to excite passion, and increase the difficulties in the ways of a restoration of fraternal relations among the states This morning went with Emma to Fassetts Photographic gallery to have pictures taken

## Chicago

Sunday Nov 8, 1863 Attended Church with Emma on North side in the morning In the evening went to the Church on South side

Monday Nov 9 Attending court in forenoon At night went to Coolbaughs

Tuesday Nov 10 Took leave of Emma in the afternoon preparatory to starting home, \*and at 8½ at night took the cars for Quincy

Wednesday Nov 11 Breakfasted at Plymouth & reached home at 10 A. M.

Thursday Nov 12 At work in office

Friday Nov 13 At work in office. Had party of 30 or 40 persons at our house at night

## Quincy

Saturday Nov 14, 1863 At work in office

Sunday Nov 15 At Church in morning. In the evening went to Mr Emerys Church

Monday Nov 16—At work in office Mrs Warren wife of Rev Dr Warren came to our house to day

\*Tuesday Nov 17 At work in office. At night went with Mrs Browning, Miss O'Bannon & Miss Kate Palmer to entertainment at Pinkham Hall given by sisters of the Good Samaritan

Wednesday Nov 18 At work in office

Thursday Nov 19 At work in office. Attended Sisters entertainment at Pinkham Hall, at night

<sup>1</sup>Miss Anna E. Dickinson, known as the "girl orator," was, during the Civil War, a frequent lecturer on war issues.



Quincy

Friday Nov 20, 1863 At work in office. Attended entertainment by the sisters, including readings by Mrs Newlan at Pinkham Hall at night

\*Saturday Nov 21 At work in office. Mrs Cox and Mrs Newlin at our house to tea. Dr Coolidge medical inspector, Mrs Coolidge & Col Dayton in to spend the evening

Sunday Nov 22 At Church A. M. After tea called to see Mrs Gilpin, who goes South tomorrow

\*Monday Nov 23 At 4 P. M. to day Miss O'Bannon started for Jacksonville on her way home—Mrs Browning and I started at same time to Burlington, Iowa, to see brother Miltons family. Reached Galesburg at 9 at night, and staid all night at Dr Candees

Burlington &amp; Galesburg

Tuesday Nov 24 1863 Reached Burlington from 10 to 11 O'clock A. M. Spent the day with brother Miltons family—then went to Barret House and staid all night

Wednesday Nov 25 Left Burlington at 6 A M—reached Galesburg from 8 to 9. and spent the day with Dr Candee's family. At 6 P M took the cars for home, and arrived at 10½

Thursday Nov 26 Thanksgiving day. Mrs B and I at home alone. Dined by ourselves.

Friday Nov 27 At work in office At night went to Court House to hear a lecture from President Sturdivant, but the night was bad and lecture postponed till tomorrow night

Quincy

Saturday Nov 28, 1863 At work in office. At night heard President Sturtivant at the Court House, on the state of feeling in England, in respect to American affairs

It was a calm, well considered, able, philosophical, statesman-like address. In his opinion, after close observation, and much intercourse in England for three months, not only the Government officials but 99 out of every hundred of the people are in sympathy with the rebellion, and wish it to succeed, and I have no doubt he is right

Sunday Nov 29 At Church A. M. Called at Mr Bushnells in the evening

Monday 30 At work in office

Quincy

\*Tuesday Decr 1. 1863 Mild, bright delightful day. Busy preparing to start to Washington tomorrow

\*Wednesday Dec 2 Bushnell & Capt Sterne dined with me to day. At 4 P. M. took the cars for Chicago on my way to Washington. Singleton in company.

Thursday Dec 3 Reached Chicago at day break, and stopped at Sherman House. After breakfast went over to Mr Berteaus to see Emma, and found her sick in bed, tho better than she was two days ago. Called again in P M and found her still improving. At 6 P M Singleton, Hon C M Harris and myself took the cars on Ft Wayne Road on our way to Washington

Wash-  
ington

Friday December 4, 1863 Breakfasted this morning at Crest-line, where we met Senator Henderson of Missouri who came on in company with us. Senator Howe of Wisconsin and Mrs & Miss Howe joined us at Chicago. Dined at Alliance, and passed through Pittsburg before night—Took supper at Altona

Saturday Decr 5 Reached Harrisburg at 2 A. M. but the Baltimore train had left before our arrival, so we went to a Hotel and went to bed. At 7 A M left Harrisburg, dined at Baltimore, where we had to wait several hours, and reached Washington at 4 P. M. I stopped at Mrs Carters—Found Senators Cowan & Foote, Mrs Foote, and Judge Watts here.

Wash-  
ington

\*Sunday Decr 6. 1863 Attended Dr Gurley's Church in forenoon

Monday Dec 7 To day Cowan and I removed to our rooms in the Dickens' house on Capitol Hill, but continue to take our meals at Mrs Carters.

\*Tuesday Dec 8 Attending Court

Wednesday Dec 9 Do

Thursday Dec 10 Went to Treasury Department this morning on business for Jno Williams & for Mrs Moore, and then attended Court.

Friday Dec 11 Cowan & I were vaccinated at my room this morning by Dr Toner, small pox being prevalent.

Wash-  
ington

\*Saturday Decr 12 1863 Went to Georgetown this morning and saw Mrs Casson in regard to cases of Robinson vs Gard.

Called at War Department on my way back, and got George Candee appointed a Pay Master. Also called at the White House, but the President was sick, and I did not ask to see him.

Sunday Dec 13 At Dr Gurleys Church this morning.

Monday Dec 14 Up early and went to Willard's Hotel to breakfast with Dr L W Brown. After breakfast went with him to the Presidents to try and get Henry Warfield, a lad of 18 years old, a rebel Prisoner at Camp Douglas, and a brother in law of Dr Brown, committed to the custody of the Dr—Got a preliminary order which was finally completed after passing thro several offices to the Commissary of prisoners. The President told me his sister in law, Mrs Helm<sup>1</sup> was in the house, but he did not wish it known. She wished an order for the protection of some Cotton she had at Jackson, Mississippi. He thought she ought to have it, but he was afraid he would be censured if he did so

\*Tuesday Dec 15 Attending Court, and at Commissary Bureau, and Judge advocate Genl Holts on business for Gage, Baker; Goodell, Maginnes &<sup>e</sup>

Wednesday Dec 16. 1863 Attending Court—

Thursday Dec 17 At Commissary Department to see Col Shiras, and had an interview with him about the business of Gage Baker &<sup>e</sup>

Friday Dec 18 Attending Court

\*Saturday Dec 19 At Commissary Department to see Col Shirass in regard to business of Baker, Goodell &<sup>e</sup> and to see Col Hoffman about Chas Jonas, a Prisoner at Johnsons Island

Sunday Dec 20 Not very well & not at Church. Capt Jas M Rice called this morning. Genl John Bufords funeral took place at 2 P M, but my arm was so inflamed from vaccination, and the day so cold that I did not go out

Monday Dec 21. 1863 In the morning went to see Adj<sup>t</sup>:

<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Emily T. Helm was a half-sister of Mrs. Lincoln and wife of the Confederate general, Benjamin Hardin Helm. For a letter written by President Lincoln concerning her loyalty, see *War of the Rebellion: Official Records*, series II, 7:567.

Wash-  
ington

\*Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Sammons at camp—then to Genl Martindales<sup>1</sup> office. At night went to see the President on business, & then called on Mrs Lincoln

\*Tuesday Decr 22 Attending Court.

Wednesday Dec 23 Attending Court, and at work upon records—Court adjourned over to day until Monday

Thursday Decr 24 Called to day on Mrs Genl Jno Buford, and Mrs Dr Coolidge—Cowan has gone home for Christmast

Wash-  
ington

\*Friday Decr 25, 1863 Have been at work upon a record all day, with the exception of an hours walk

\*Saturday Dec 26 Recvd of Senator Nesmith this morning \$500 retainer in case of Qr Masters Ferguson & Stoddard now in old Capitol prison, but Mr Stanton, Secy of War, would not permit me to have an interview with them Went with Dr Fowler and Goodell of Illinois to Commissary department on their business and got it arranged for which they are to pay me \$5000 by the 10<sup>th</sup> Jany. Went to Smithsonian with Dr Toner on behalf of Frank Cowan

\*Wash-  
ington

Sunday Decr 27. 1863 Attended Dr Gurley's Church in forenoon. Not out again Capt J M Rice called in P M

Monday Decr 28 Attending Court. I N Morris called at night to get me to assist in procuring paymt of 2 pr ct fund to Illinois

\*Tuesday Decr 29 At work in the law library through the day. At night went to the Presidents to see him on business, and then called and spent an hour with Mrs Seward

Wednesday Dec 30 At war depart—Qr Masters and Commissaries. At night attended a little party at Genl Wrights

Wash-  
ington

\*Thursday Decr 31. 1863 Went to Camp in the morning to see Adjt Sammons. Then did a little business in the clerks office, and kept my room the rest of the day, not being very well

<sup>1</sup>John Henry Martindale, 1815-1881. Brigadier general of volunteers, 1861; served during the peninsular campaign; 1862-1864 was military governor of Washington, being relieved at his own request and joining General Butler's army; 1864, resigned his commission because of disability; given rank of brevet major general of volunteers because of gallant conduct at Malvern Hill; 1866-1868, attorney general of New York.



1864

Wash-  
ington,  
D. C.

Friday, Jany 1, 1864<sup>1</sup> Beginning, to day, a new year, I desire, with a grateful heart, to return my thanks to Almighty God, for the mercies of the year which has just closed, and to implore his continued kindness through that upon which I am now entering, and humbly to ask that he will enable me, by his grace, so to live in the future that I may be more worthy of his blessings hereafter than I have ever been heretofore

Wash-  
ington

Took a carriage in company with Senators Foot & Doolittle, and Hon Mr Spaulding,<sup>2</sup> a member from Ohio, and went out calling. Paid our respects at the Vice Presidents, and all the Secretaries except Mr Ushers, and at several other places—Did not go in at the Presidents—such a mob around the door we did not try to enter. In the evening I went to P M Genl Blairs to dinner. Senator Doolittle, Capt Alexander of the Army, and Mrs Col Emory, beside myself constituted the party at dinner. Old F P Blair and his wife came in afterwards. Had a very pleasant evening. For the first time in my life I ate bear meat and found it excellent

Wash-  
ington

Saturday Jany 2, 1864 At the Presidents to show him Lieut Benjamins letter in regard to affairs in Arkansas.

He was much pleased with the information it contained, and said he would take measures very soon to organize a government there. At the Treasury, Interior and Post Office Departments on business Both yesterday and to day have been very cold

Sunday Jany 3 At Dr Gurleys' Church in the forenoon, and not out again

Wash-  
ington

Monday Jany 4, 1864 Snowing heavily all day. Attending Court. In the evening dined at the Rugby House, with Pay

<sup>1</sup>1864 is in a book bound in black leather, pages 5¼ by 8¾ inches, gilt edged with faint ruling. There are 140 pages, all of which are used.

<sup>2</sup>Rufus P. Spaulding, 1798-1886. Republican representative from Ohio in the 38th, 39th, and 40th congresses.

Master Bridge of the Navy, and his wife, \*in company with Senator & Mrs Foot, Senator Doolittle, and Mr & Mrs Spalding of Ohio

Tuesday Jan'y 5. Attending Court. Cowan returned to day.

\*Wednesday Jan'y 6 At War Department in the morning—Also at Treasury—Called on Eben Moore there. Majr Rollins of Missouri, and his daughters Misses Laura & Mary, took tea and spent the evening with me at Mrs Carters

\*Wash-  
ington

Thursday Jan'y 7, 1864 At Qr Masters and War Department in the morning in regard to claim of B H Jenkins of Alexandria for use of his planing Mill and sash factory by the government. At night went to see the President in regard to the Claim of Illinois for the two per cent fund

Friday Jan'y 8 Attending Court in the morning—In afternoon went to see Mr Sammons at Camp The weather very cold—a good deal of snow on the ground, and the sleighing good

\*Wash-  
ington

Saturday Jan'y 9, 1864 Lieut Henry Asbury called this morning before breakfast, and delivered me a letter and package from Mrs Browning. After breakfast I went to the office of Col Hoffman, Commissary of prisoners to try and procure release of W<sup>m</sup> Tillson confined at Richmond

Sunday Jan'y 10. At Church in the morning. Mrs Lincoln brot me home in her carriage. Mrs Judge Davis & Mrs Dubois in company

\*Monday Jan'y 11 Continues very cold. In Court and the Law Library

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday Jan'y 12, 1863 In court and the law library. At night Frank Cowan and I went to Willards and called on the Misses Rollins. I called also on Senator Harris' family, and Mr & Mrs Kennedy

Wednesday Jan'y 13 Attended Court in the morning. Dined at Atto Genl Bates' in the evening

Thursday Jan'y 14 Went in forenoon to the War Department and got Sec: Stanton to telegraph Capt Flagg, Quincy Ills, to issue rations to the suffering contrabands

\*At night attended large party at Mr Secretary Swards

\*Wash-  
ington

Friday Jan'y 15 1864 Argued motion, in Supreme Court, for prohibition in the Wisconsin Rail Road case

\*Saturday Jan'y 16 Called on Mrs Young and Mrs McDougall this evening, who are occupying the same house. Saw Mrs Young, but McDougall was very drunk, and his wife was taking care of him and did not appear.

Sunday Jan'y 17. At Church this morning. Rev Dr Storrs preached a most admirable sermon Saw Capt Milton Kimball of Illinois, at Church.

Wash-  
ington

Monday Jan'y 18, 1864 At War Department in the morning about ice contract of Parrish & Co<sup>1</sup>—Then in Court—Capt Kimball called at night

\*Tuesday Jan'y 19 At the Presidents in regard to the 2 pr ct fund, and Robt H Bushnell—At Navy Depart: about Rob Bushnell—At War Department about Capts Ferguson & Goddard in old Capitol prison, and at Quarter-Masters in regard to Jenkins claim

\*Wednesday Jan'y 20 Went to War Department with Mr Swett in regard to Parrish's ice contract. The to P O Depart: for Dennis—also for Ike Cook

\*Wash-  
ington

Thursday Jan'y 21, 1864 At War Department with Leonard Swett Esqrs about Parrish's ice contract. Then to see the Sur-

<sup>1</sup>Browning's activity in the obtaining of government contracts and in attending to many other matters in which his clients had business with the departments or bureaus of the government, occupied much of his time in the years 1863 and 1864. His statements covering instances of this sort are often self-explanatory, and in general the cases are of but slight importance. Since the Parrish ice contract is noted at various times in the diary, a word concerning it may be appropriate. The records show that J. W. Parrish and Co. of St. Louis agreed in 1863 to deliver ice at Memphis, Nashville, St. Louis and Cairo at prices ranging from sixteen dollars to twenty-five dollars per ton. It was stipulated, as usual, that no member of Congress should share in any benefit arising from the contract. C. A. Dana, assistant secretary of war, writing to Secretary Stanton, stated that this contract was honestly made, that Parrish and Co. were the lowest of eleven bidders, and that the prices were not extravagant. *Senate Report*, 38 Congress, 2 session, number 142, part 3, "Ice Contracts," 61, 78-79. On the general subject of government contracts during the Civil War, the following documents may be consulted: *House Reports*, 37 Congress, 2 session, number 2; *House Executive Documents*, 37 Congress, 2 session, number 101; *House Executive Documents*, 38 Congress, 2 session, number 84.

geon Genl about native wines as sanitary supplies, on behalf of Ike Cook. Then to the office of the Solicitor of the Treasury, on behalf of Mr Jno D Brown, of New York, to investigate old mortgage from J B F Russell to the U S. for land in Illinois

Friday 22. Attending Court. At night went to see the President about getting contract for Dickson & Zane for manufacture of Absterdam's projectiles

Wash-  
ington

Saturday Jan'y 23, 1864 At War Department with Swett  
Dee  
about Parish's ice contract, and got it satisfactorily arranged

\*Sunday Jan'y 24 At Church in the morning. At the Presidents to dinner at 7 P. M. Among other guests Genls Ramsay, Schenck, & Garfield—Hon Mr Hooper of Massachusetts, Ashmun, Sumner &<sup>1</sup>

\*Monday Jan'y 25 Attended court in the morning—Then at Commissary Department on behalf of Fowler & Co—then at Quarter Master Genl's on behalf of Charles Duffield & Co. Louisville, Kentucky

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday Jan'y 26, 1864 Saw Secy of War about the contract of E S Fowler & Co, and Secy of Navy about transfer of Pay Master Pearson to the line

\*Wednesday Jan'y 27 At War Department in the morning about Capts Ferguson & Stoddard. Then at Qr Masters about Jenkins claim, and claim of Duffield & Co, Louisville Then went with President to see Genl Ramsay on behalf of Dickson and Zane about the Absterdam projectile.

In the evening had a surprise party—Ladies & Gent from Mrs Carters came en masse

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Jan'y 28, 1864 In my room most of the day at work upon record in the Rail Road case from Wisconsin

<sup>1</sup>Of the President's dinner guests on this occasion, Brigadier General George D. Ramsay, of Washington, D. C., was chief of ordnance of the U. S. Army; Robert C. Schenck, of Ohio, was a prominent Union general; Garfield, the future president, had at this time attained the rank of major general and was serving as a representative in Congress from Ohio; Samuel Hooper was a member of Congress from Massachusetts; George Ashmun, of Massachusetts (see *ante* 407 n. 3) had been chairman of the Republican convention which nominated Lincoln, and Charles Sumner was senator from Massachusetts (see *ante* 192 n. 1).



Friday Jan'y 29 At Judge Advocate Genl<sup>s</sup> and War Department with Mr Sidway of Chicago about his claim for cavalry equipments Got from Asst: Secy Watson permission to see Cpts Ferguson & Stoddard, Qr Masters in old Capitol prison Took Senator Nesmith with me. Were not permitted to see them except in presence of an official about the jail, nor to see the two together, but only one at a time, and for 15 minutes only. Saw Stoddard first. He was very reticent—did not wish to be defended—expected to be released & restored to duty in a few days, but thought it might go hard with Capt Ferguson. He said enough to satisfy me he was a guilty man, very guilty, and had been making extensive confessions, probably implicating others with a view to saving himself. Then saw Capt Ferguson who was much more communicative. He made a clean breast of it, but did not wish to be defended, and did not expect to be harshly dealt with himself though he thought it would go hard with Stoddard. He said there was a large accumulation of surplus grain in the Qr Masters Department, at Alexandria, which Stoddard disposed of to one McGraw of New York under an arrangement to share the profits. There was also some fuel, wood, I think, connected with the transaction. They were to give him, Ferguson, a part for keeping their secret, and helping them to cover up the affair. After about six months his share, amounting to \$31,000,00 came to him in five twentys which he put in his safe, and had when he was arrested two weeks after, and which had now been turned over to the government. How much Stoddard and McGraw divided he did not know, but was satisfied each of them got largely more than he did. He thought they took the lions share

Saturday Jan'y 30. At War Department: and Ordnance Bureau about Sidways claim. Capt Rice called at night on his way to Quincy

Sunday Jan'y 31 At Church A. M. Mrs Lincoln & Robert drove me home.

Monday Feby 1, 1864 Commenced in the Supreme Court to day the argument of the case of Bronson & Soutter vs La

Crosse & Milwaukee Rail Road company & others.<sup>1</sup> Hon Mr Brown of Wisconsin opened for the Pltfs, but did not conclude.

Tuesday Feby 2. Mr Brown concluded his argument, and was followed by Mr Carpenter of Wisconsin for Defendants, who did not conclude.

Wednesday Feby 3 Mr Carpenter concluded his Argument. When court adjourned Dickson & Zane had a carriage in waiting for me to go to the Arsenal to witness a trial of the Absterdam projectile, which, by appointment with the President I had agreed to do. Met the President and Genl Ramsay at the Arsenal. The wind was very high, but the trial, as far as it progressed, was most satisfactory. Firing under supervision of Majr Benton of the Arsenal. After firing about a dozen shots, postpone further proceedings for a good day. Talked with President on behalf of E L Baker of Springfield, about contract of E S Fowler & Co; also about discharge of son of Dr. Alf Baker, a boy of 16 who had been decoyed into enlisting—President promised to discharge him

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Feby 4, 1864 Commenced my argument in the Supreme Court to day in the Wisconsin Rail Road case—Had not concluded when Court adjourned. Was very greatly complimented by the bar on the argument I made.

Friday Feby 5 Concluded my argument commenced yesterday, and the Court adjourned In the evening I called at the National Hotel & spent an hour with Mrs Brutus Clay. Cowan & Frank started to Philadelphia this evening with the committee on Naval affairs

Wash-  
ington

Saturday Feby 6, 1864 At Post Office Department on Dennis, business. At Surgeon Genl<sup>s</sup> for the appointment of Seaton as hospital steward & Dr Candee as chaplain—At Quarter Master Genls about getting work for the ladies at Quincy to be given out to destitute families

<sup>1</sup>Bronson and Soutter *vs.* the La Crosse and Milwaukee Railroad Company, the Milwaukee and Minnesota Railroad Company, Chamberlain et al., concerned the right of the United States District Court for the district of Wisconsin to foreclose a mortgage on a portion of the roads in view of acts subsequently passed covering the case. 1 *Wallace*, 405 ff.

At night went to see the President on behalf of Mrs Fitz, a loyal widow of Mississippi owning a cotton plantation there, and from whom the U S Army had taken all her slaves amounting to 47, and 10,000 bushels of corn—She is now a refugee in St Louis, reduced to indigence. She asks no compensation for her slaves, but wishes the government to give her a sufficient number of negroes out of those accumulated upon its hands to work her farm the ensuing season, and enable her to raise a crop of cotton, she to pay them out of the proceeds the same wages which the government pays those it employs. I made the proposition to the President thinking it reasonable and just, and worthy at least of being considered. He became very much excited, and did not discuss the proposition at all, but said with great vehemence he had rather take a rope and hang himself than to do it. That there were a great many poor women who had never had any property at all who were suffering as much as Mrs Fitz—that her condition was a necessary consequence of the rebellion, and that the government could not make good the losses occasioned by rebels. I reminded him that she was loyal, and that her property had been taken from her by her own government, and was now being used by it, and I thought it a case eminently proper for some sort of remuneration, and her demand reasonable, and certainly entitled to respectful consideration. He replied that she had lost no property—that her slaves were free when they were taken, and that she was entitled to no compensation.

I called his attention to the fact that a portion of her slaves, at least, had been taken in 1862, before his proclamation, and put upon our gun boats, when he replied in a very excited manner that he had rather *throw up*, than to do what was asked, and would not do anything about it. I left him in no very good humor.

Sunday Feby 7, 1864 At Church in forenoon

Monday Feby 8 Continued the argument of the Rail Road case, Mr Carpenter taking the day in reply to me

Tuesday Feby 9 Mr Carlisle concluded the argument in the Rail Road case

Wash-  
ington

In the morning I went with Mr Hadley to see Asst Sec'y of War Dana, about ice contract of Parrish & Co. Two weeks ago Parrish was here, his contract having been rescinded by the War Department after having been fairly entered into. When he was here the whole matter was discussed and settled—the contract renewed, and drawn up and sent to Louisville to be executed, and Parrish told to go on with his preparations. He did go on and has expended some \$35,000 and now it is again suspended, and brought here. It includes New Orleans, and Mr Dana says he will now confirm the contract for all but that place, but that that shall be withdrawn, because Boston men have always had the furnishing of New Orleans, and will do it now at a less price than Parrish has taken the contract at, and that the lettings were not advertised in Boston. After adjournment of court went to the Arsenal with Dixon & Zane to witness firing of Absterdam projectiles. Senator McDougall went with us

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Feby 10, 1864 In the morning Swett and I went to the War Department with Mr Hadley about his ice contract, and had a long interview with Asst Secy Dana, but reached no result. I also went to see Genl Ramsay about the Absterdam projectile, but he had not yet recv<sup>d</sup> Capt Bentons report from the Arsenal

Hon Preston King arrived to night.

Thursday Feby 11 This morning commenced the defence of Capt George Ely, on trial before Court Martial over which Genl Griffing presides

At party at P M Genl Blairs at night

\*Wash-  
ington

Friday Feby 12, 1864 Progressing with trial of Capt Ely before Court Martial

Saturday Feby 13 Went this morning with E. L Baker to Col Hoffmans' in regard to contract of E. S. Fowler & Co, for supplying the troops & prisoners in Illinois \*The government seeking to make reclamations on beef—Then at trial of Capt Ely before Court Martial Bushnell arrived to day, \*and is staying with Cowan & myself.

Sunday Feby 14 Bushnell and I went to Dr Gurley's Church this morning



Monday Feby 15, 1864 Attending Court Martial

Tuesday Feby 16 Attending Court Martial Closed the evidence to day

\*Wednesday Feby 17 At War Department on business of Capt Stoddard who is in old Capitol prison. Got Bushnell to prepare deed of trust for him to raise \$33,000 to refund to the Government

Thursday Feby 18 In my room preparing defence of Capt Ely to be read tomorrow before the Court Martial Bushnell left at 4 p. m. Going by way of New Haven

Friday Feby 19, 1864 This morning appeared before the Court Martial and read Capt Elys defence, which occupied an hour & three quarters—Then at Col Hoffmans about contract of E S Fowler & Co, and at Treasury Department for Turner & Sidway

\*Saturday Feby 20 Doing Department business.

Sunday Feby 21 At Church in forenoon—Heard an excellent sermon from Rev Dr Manning of Boston

Monday \*22 At Departments in the morning Called on Mrs Beckwith in p. m. At night attended party at Gov Morgans. Went with Mr Spalding & Judge Wilmot

\*Tuesday Feby 23, 1864 At Departments on business. At night Hon Truman Smith called and spent an hour or two with me.

\*Wednesday Feby 24 At Departments on business.

Thursday Feby 25 At Departments and in Supreme Court.

\*Friday Feby 26 At War Department, and to see Majr Hastings on behalf of Capt Ely. Judge Davis, Mr Phillips & Mr Weldon came to see in afternoon \*At work on record in case in Supreme Court

Saturday Feby 27, 1864 At Departments in the morning. In afternoon at work in my room Just before night Mr Ewing, his daughter Mrs Steele, his son Judge Ewing, and servant arrived, and took rooms in my house

Sunday Feby 28 At Church in the forenoon. After tea called at National Hotel and spent an hour with Mrs Brutus Clay, and Miss Mary & Miss Sallie Clay.

Monday \*Feby 29 At War Department with and for Capt Ely in the morning—Then attended Court

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday March 1, 1864 At War Department for Capt Ely, Capt Hollowbush, and Capt O I Flagg in morning—Then attended Court

\*Wednesday March 2 Attended Court in the morning—then at work in my room. Mr Cha<sup>s</sup> Allen & lady and Miss Nellie Bushnell of Quincy arrived this evening

Thursday March 3. Went with Mr & Mrs Allen and Miss Bushnell through the capitol—then to call on the President—then to the War Department, where we parted, and I went back to my room to work Hill arrived from St Louis to night

\*Wash-  
ington

Friday March 4, 1864 Argued motion in Supreme Court this morning. In afternoon Commodore Wilkes<sup>1</sup> called to engage me to defend him before a Court Martial, which is to sit next week Harrison Dills, of Quincy, also called Mr & Mrs Allen & Miss Bushnell left at 7 this evening for New York

<sup>1</sup>Admiral Charles Wilkes, whose capture of Mason and Slidell from the British steamer *Trent* gave rise to a serious international crisis in 1861, was brought before a naval court martial on March 9, 1864, to answer certain charges concerning his conduct while commanding a squadron in the West Indies in 1863, especially with regard to his action in taking the *Vanderbilt* under his command and diverting her from the pursuit of the *Alabama*, thus, as Welles asserted, defeating the plans for the capture of the *Alabama* and other Confederate cruisers. Having been censured in Welles's annual report, Wilkes at once sent to the newspapers a letter of vindication addressed to the Secretary, and this was regarded as a further aggravation of his offense. He was charged with insubordination and undue assumption of authority, found guilty, and sentenced on April 26 to be publicly reprimanded and suspended from the service for three years. He was, however, placed on the retired list as captain in July, 1864, and two years later was promoted to the rank of rear admiral on the retired list. In Wilkes's defense, which Browning wrote, the criticism of the admiral was attributed to the Secretary's desire to explain to a dissatisfied public the navy's continued failure to end the ruinous career of the Confederate commerce destroyers. The defense covers 33 pages of the printed record. *House Executive Documents*, 38 Congress, 1 session, volume 15, numbers 102, 103; *Diary of Gideon Welles*, 1: 489, 490, 491; 2: 6, 19, 21-22, 203.

Saturday March 5 At Departments on various errands in the morning. In the afternoon had an interview with Commodore Wilkes in regard to his approaching trial—Engaged to defend him

Sunday March 6, 1864 At Church in the morning. Some Methodist preached a very excellent sermon

\*Monday March 7 In Court and at work in my room.

Tuesday March 8 At Departments in morning. Then at work in my room.

Wednesday March 9 Commenced trial of Admiral Wilkes this morning before Naval Court Martial My partner Hill assisting me in defense.

\*Thursday March 10 Attending trial of Admiral Wilkes.

Friday March 11, 1864 Progressing with trial of Admiral Wilkes In the morning before court opened I went to War Department for Asbury & Hollowbush

Saturday March 12 In the morning went to the Treasury Department about Oglesby's cotton. Then to Court Martial, and proceeded with trial of Adml. Wilkes. At night Mr Bradley of N. J. and Mr Gideon came and engaged me in Rail Road case in New Jersey

Sunday March 13 At Church in forenoon. Not out again

Monday March 14, 1864 Attending Adml Wilkes trial

Tuesday March 15 Did not go to the Court Martial today, but left it to be managed by Hill. I attended Supreme Court and argued the Janus faced lock case, on behalf of Moorehead of Pittsburg<sup>1</sup>

Wednesday March 16 Attending Court Martial

Thursday March 17 Attending Court Martial

Friday March 18 Attending Court Martial

Saturday March 19 Attending Court Martial

<sup>1</sup>This case involved the alleged infringement of patent rights in the use of Janus-faced door locks. The decision was in favor of the defendant whom Browning represented. *Jones et al. vs. Morehead, 1 Wallace, 155 ff.*

Sunday March, 20 At church in the morning In the evening called at Metropolitan to see Mr & Mrs Hollowbush

Wash-  
ington

Monday March 21, 1864 Attending Court Martial—Very cold

Tuesday March 22 Attending Court Martial. Cold as mid winter. Overcoats & scarfs necessary. Just at night began to snow heavily.

Wednesday March 23 Four or five inches of dry, light snow, on the ground this morning.

Thursday March 24 Attending Court Martial

Friday March 25 Attending Court Martial

Saturday March 26 Attending Court Martial

\*Wash-  
ington

Sunday March 27, 1864 At Church A. M. In the evening went to the Presidents, wishing to see him, and having no other time. He had just gone to the War Department to hold a consultation, Genl Grant being here. I went to his room, and waited an hour & half but he not returning I left a note for him about the appointment of Ebenezer Moore Esq as Secy of Montano, & came home

\*Monday March 28 Attending Court Martial. Went with Admiral Wilkes to dinner and read to him and Mrs Wilkes so much of his defence as I have prepared, with which they were greatly delighted

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday March 29. 1864 Attending Court Martial

Wednesday March 30 Rained all night and snowing, blowing and half sleeting this morning. Attending Court Martial

Thursday March 31 Attending Court Martial

Friday Apl 1 Attending Court Martial

Saturday Apl 2 Snowing very heavily this morning and sleeting, being some mixture of rain with the snow

Wash-  
ington

\*Sunday Apl 3 Went to Church in the morning the Misses Williams of Pittsburg accompanying me Hill left for St Louis this afternoon

At night went to the Presidents, and got an order for the release of Ludwell Y Browning, a rebel prisoner at Camp Doug-



lass. Spoke to the President also about Capt Black's case, and about the appointment of Eben: Moore Esq, as Secretary of the Territory of Mantano The President told me that a few days before Govr Bramlett<sup>1</sup> of Ky: Hon Archibald Dixon<sup>2</sup> & Mr Hodges of the same state had called upon him in regard to the enlistment of slaves as soldiers in Ky, in reference to which there has been much dissatisfaction in that State, and that everything had been amicably adjusted between them, and that they had gone home satisfied. He said when they were discussing the matter he asked them to let him make a little speech to them, which he did and with which they were much pleased. That afterwards Mr Hodges came back to him, and asked him to give him a copy of his remarks to take with him to Ky—He told Mr Hodges that what he had said was not written, and that he had not then time to commit it to paper—but to go home and he would write him a letter in which he would give, as nearly as he could all that he had said to them orally—that he had written the letter today, Sunday, and wished to show it to me, as he felt the need of sympathy & advice. He then read it to me. It contained his views of the necessity and propriety of the enlistment of negroes to aid the Union cause. A well written and excellent paper.<sup>3</sup>

He also stated to me, at length, the reasons which impelled him to issue the proclamation of emancipation, but which I have not now time to commit to paper. I have no doubt he was honest & sincere in what he did, and actuated by conscientious views of public duty—This is the first talk I have had with him on public affairs since he issued that proclamation

Monday Apl 4, 1864 Attending the Court Martial

Tuesday Apl 5 Attending Court Martial. When it adjourned went home with Adml Wilkes to dinner, and read to

<sup>1</sup>Thomas E. Bramlette, 1817-1875. Kentucky Unionist; colonel of volunteers in the Union army from 1861 to 1863; governor of Kentucky from 1863 to 1867.

<sup>2</sup>Archibald Dixon, 1802-1876. Senator from Kentucky from 1852 to 1855.

<sup>3</sup>In this letter Lincoln stated his attitude both with reference to emancipation and the arming of the negroes. Letter to A. G. Hodges, April 4, 1864. Nicolay and Hay, *Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 10: 65-68.

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

him, and Mrs Wilkes, and the Misses some additional manuscript of the defence I am preparing for him

Wednesday Apl 6 Attending Court Martial. Closed the evidence on both sides

Thursday Apl 7 Court Martial met—read the record of yesterday, and then adjourned to meet on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> and hear the defence. Went home with Adml Wilkes for a short time

Wash-  
ington

Friday Apl 8, 1864 At War Department this morning for Hollowbush. Got permission for him to withdraw his resignation as Quarter Master, and the promise of Genl Meigs to order him to report to Genl Curtiss. Then went to old Capitol Prison to see Smoot & Spicer, contractors arrested by the Government for failing to fulfil horse contracts. They are to be tried before a Court Martial, & wished me to defend them, which I cannot do—not having time, and declined. I think I will not again go into a Court Martial

Wash-  
ington

Saturday Apl 9, 1864 Today wrote the defence to the charge respecting the Laguayra affair in Adml Wilkes' case. All the forepart of the defence up to, and including the charge about the Vanderbilt, I prepared whilst we were progressing with the evidence in the case

Sunday Apl 10 At Church in forenoon, and not out again

Monday Apl 11 At work on Adml Wilkes defence. Was at Col Holt's in the morning on behalf of Capt Black

Tuesday Apl 12 At work on Adml Wilkes defence.

Wednesday Apl 13 Finished preparation of Adml's defence

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Apl 14, 1864 Mrs Browning arrived at 6 O'clock this morning accompanied by my friend Jno: Johnston and our servant boy Johnny. In the afternoon Adml & Mrs Wilkes called and I read to them the last half of the defence having previously read the first half. They were greatly pleased with it.

\*Friday Apl 15 Had to go to War Department this morn-

Sat

ing—Qr Masters &c—Took Mr Johnston along and looked into the rooms at White House

\*Saturday Apl 16 Took medicine last night and not out today

\*Washington Sunday Apl 17, 1864 Not very well and did not go out. Mr Johnston confined with a very bad cold

\*Monday Apl 18 The Wilkes Court Martial met again this morning, and I proceeded to examine Capt Ridgely and Commander Stephens on behalf of the defence.

Tuesday Apl 19 Resumed and concluded the examination of Commander Stephens which closed the evidence on both sides.

Wednesday Apl 20 To day I read before the Court the defence of Adml Wilkes which occupied me 3½ hours

\*Washington Thursday Apl 21, 1864 At the Departments in the morning, and then at the Court Martial where nothing was done. Our friend Mr Johnston left us for home this evening.

Friday Apl 22 Went to War Department this morning, and got an order discharging William Tillson from the service

Saturday Apl 23 Went to War Department and got Frank Butze appointed a Qr Master. Then to the Wilkes Court Martial. Judge Advocate Eames read part of his reply occupying an hour & a quarter, & adjourned till Monday

\*Washington Sunday Apl 24, 1864 Mrs Browning, Johnny and I went to Dr Gurleys Church in the morning

Monday Apl 25 In the Wilkes Court Martial this morning Judge Advocate Eames concluded the reading of his reply, occupying 40 minutes. This closed the case, so far as I am concerned. The Court took it for consideration At 6 P M called on Mrs R L Browning of Indiana at the National Hotel

\*Tuesday Apl 26 At work at my room—

Wednesday Apl 27 At work at my room. Mrs Steele left for home, and Judge Ewing arrived, both after night

\*Washington Thursday Apl 28 1864 At War Department this morning and got Capt Hollowbush's resignation as Qr Master accepted. At Qr Masters on the business of Mrs Carroll

Friday Apl 29 \*Mrs Col Symington came down this morning to suit me about her husbands will, and left again in the

afternoon. At night Mr Ewing and I went to the Presidents, but he had gone to the War Department and we did not see him

\*Saturday Apl 30 At Qr Masters Dept in morning on business for Mrs Carroll \*At night Mr Ewing and I went to the Presidents and had an interview of three hours with him in regard to Capt Blacks case—Also brought the case of Adml Wilkes to his notice

\*Wash-  
ington

Sunday May 1, 1864 Went to Dr Gurleys church in the morning. Mrs B. did not go. Mr Cuyler of Brooklyn preached. Johnny went with me. In conversation with the President last night he expressed great solicitude about the coming struggle with the Army of the Potomac. Said he had no fault to find with Genl Grant—believed he had done, and was doing all that was possible, but Lee would select his own ground, and await an attack, which would give him great advantages. Furthermore he had doubts of the fidelity of some of the officers under Grant, but had directed that they be watched & superceded on the first indication of faltering

Wash-  
ington

Monday May 2 1864 At Court of Claims in the morning. Then in House of Rep: about Wards claim—then at work in my room.

Tuesday May 3 At War Department about Mrs Carrolls claim, and at Qr Master Genl<sup>s</sup> & Surgeon Genls about work for women at Quincy. Mrs Browning in company with some friends went to Arlington, Freedmans village & Alexandria in Va:

Wednesday May 4 Left at War Depart: for the Secy statement of Mrs Carrolls case. Went to Col Fry's office on behalf of Lieut Roberts, and to Treasury Depart: about claim of Estate of Hon A Williams

Wash-  
ington

Thursday May 5, 1864 Filed statement in Brooke's case with Committee of Claims in the Senate. Then at work in my room. At night Mr Ewing and I went to the Presidents in Adml Wilkes case.<sup>1</sup> I then called at the Adml<sup>s</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The purpose of Browning and Ewing was evidently to obtain a remission of Wilkes's sentence. Concerning a similar visit of Ewing's on December 20, 1864, see *Diary of Gideon Welles*, 2:203.



Friday May 6. At War Dept about Mrs Carrolls claim, and about appointment of Lieut Roberts as comfir of enrollments at Quincy, and Dr Fee as Surgeon of a colored Regiment. At night Mrs Browning and I called at the Presidents—P M Genl Blairs—Mr Secy Swards & Adml Wilkes'

Wash-  
ington

Saturday May 7 1864 At home most of the day.

Sunday May 8 Heard Bishop Simpson preach in Representative Hall

Monday May 9 At War Dept: about appointment of Lieut Roberts. At Treasury Dept: about accts of Hon A Williams dec<sup>d</sup>. Then at Senate about N J Rail road and at work in office

Tuesday May 10 At Presidents in morning with Mr Ewing about Adml Wilkes & Capt Blacks cases Genl Oglesby called and spent sometime in the afternoon

\*Wash-  
ington

Wednesday May 11, 1864 Capt J. M Rice who was wounded in the battle of the Wilderness on Friday last reached here this morning, and I visited him at Armory Square Hospital—Had a Minnie ball through his right thigh breaking it.

Thursday May 12 Visited Capt Rice at Hospital—Went to Gideons about printing, and then at work in my room. Mrs Browning and I dined and spent the evening at Admiral Wilkes

Friday May 13 Visited Capt Rice. Then at work at my room—

\*Wash-  
ington

Saturday May 14, 1864 Bull & Penfield arrived this morning. Went to War Dept: about Hollowbushs commutation, and Mrs Carrolls claim. Mrs B & I then went to Hospital to see Capt Rice—Then at work in my room.

Sunday May 15 Went to newly organized Presbyterian Church on the corner of South A & 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets Capitol Hill

Monday May 16 Went with Mr Bull to War Dept: Then in Senate about the New Jersey Rail Roads. At night Mr Ewing and I went to Presidents about the Wilkes & Black cases, but did not see him

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday May 17, 1864 Argued Wards case before Committee of claims in House Rep. Then in Senate about New

Jersey R Roads Secy Seward & Fred & Mrs Seward called this evening

Wednesday May 18 At work in my room, and about the Senate & House

Thursday May 19 At work at my room

Friday May 20 Hon Mr Ewing and his son P B Ewing left at 6 Oclock this morning for Ohio. Mrs B and I dined at P M Genl<sup>s</sup>. In conversation about emancipation proclamation P M Genl Blair said he knew it was written, ready to be issued before the Presidents letter to Greeley,<sup>1</sup> and before his reply to the Chicago committee

Wash-  
ington

Saturday May 21, 1864 Post Master Genl Blair called this morning to engage me to argue Frank Blairs contested election case before the House of Rep:

Sunday May 22 Mr & Mrs Foot, Mrs Browning and myself went to Mr Chester's Church on Capitol Hill

Monday May 23 Saw Secy of War about reclamations on E. S. Fowler & Co. Then at War Depart about the arrest of Covert & Farlin. At night went to the Presidents and got order for release of Capt Saml Black. Then to Secy Swards & spent an hour. Mr & Mrs Eben Moore dined with us

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday May 24, 1864 At Metropolitan Hotel before breakfast to see Covert and Farlin. Then went to War Department to get them bailed or parolled. Attended also to Capt Black's case—Then at work in my office

Wednesday May 25 All day at home in the office

<sup>1</sup>Lincoln's famous reply to Greeley, in which he declared his purpose to save the Union, and neither to save nor to destroy slavery, was written on August 22, 1862, and in reply to a committee from religious denominations of Chicago, on September 13, 1862, he argued against the advisability of a proclamation of emancipation which he compared to "the Pope's bull against the comet." The President had broached the subject of emancipation to Gideon Welles on July 13, and the decision to issue the proclamation had been made known in cabinet meeting on July 22. Postmaster General Blair was among those who opposed the proclamation. Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln*, 6, chapters 5, 6, 8; *Diary of Gideon Welles*, 1:70; A. B. Hart, *Salmon P. Chase*, 266 ff.

Thursday May 26 At Col Holt's, Col Wisewell's Quarter Masters Department &c for Covert & Farlin \*Then at work in office

Friday May 27 At Quarter Master Genls for Covert & Farlin

Saturday May 28, 1864 At Quarter Master Genl<sup>s</sup> for Covert & Farlin

Sunday May 29 Took medicine last night and not out today

\*Monday May 30 At War Dept for Covert & Farlin about their hay contract, and for Parrish about pork contract. Then at work on Frank Blairs contested election case—

Tuesday May 31 At War Department for Covert & Farlin, and Parrish \*Mrs B and I called at Carlises and spent an hour or two in the evening

Wednesday June 1, 1864 At War Department for Covert & Farlin, and for Parrish in the morning

\*Thursday June 2 Mrs Browning went to Bladensburg. I to Commissary Genl<sup>s</sup> with Swett for Parrish, and then to War Depart: for Covert & Farlin & completed their business by getting an extension of 30 days to enable them to fill their contract— They discharged from arrest and proceedings in Court Martial suspended. Went to the President and got Chas H Jonas, a rebel prisoner at Johnson's Island, paroled for three weeks to visit his father, who is dying

Friday June 3, 1864 Called on Judge Advocate Hastings to show him the orders in regard to Covert & Farlin In P. M. Dr W T G Morton<sup>1</sup> came to engage me to prepare a paper to laid on the tables of members, in relation to his claim for compensation for discovery of the anesthetic properties of Sulphuric ether.

Saturday June 4 At work on Dr Mortons case

<sup>1</sup>William T. G. Morton, 1819-1868. A dentist who in 1846 had introduced the use of sulphuric ether as an anaesthetic for extractions. Morton had for years claimed compensation from the government for the appropriation of his discovery. The question was complicated by an uncertainty as to who had discovered the anaesthetic properties of the gas, Morton or Dr. Charles T. Jackson, mentioned below.

Wash-  
ington

\*Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Sunday June 5 Mrs Foot and I went to Mr Chesters Church in Morning. In the evening Dr Morton called and I had an interesting talk with him about ether &<sup>e</sup>

Monday June 6, 1864 At work on Anaesthetics for Dr Morton. \*Miss Hal Wright came on a visit

Tuesday June 7 At work on Anaesthetics for Dr Morton

\*Wednesday June 8 At work on Anaesthetics

Thursday June 9 Finished Anaesthesia, and sent manuscript to the press. Received telegram from Asbury & Bushnell that Abram Jonas died yesterday

Friday June 10 Capt J. N. Brown of Sangamon, and Dills of Quincy called today. Mrs Browning & Dills went to Hospital to see Capt Rice \*At night I went to the Presidents and got his promise to appoint Mrs Jonas Post Mistress at Quincy in place of her dec<sup>d</sup> husband

Saturday June 11, 1862 At the War Department for Parish about his pork contract, and on other business for other persons— Then at work in office

Sunday \*June 12 Attended church at Representative Hall— Rev Robt J Breckenridge preached a very superior sermon, but I think hundreds were disappointed at not hearing a stump speech. T'was a pure gospel sermon, and very able He and his little son John came home with me to dinner—

Monday June 13. Commenced in Supreme Court to day, the trial of case of Wiley vs Brown.<sup>1</sup> \*At night wrote argument for Parish in his pork case before War Depart

Tuesday June 14, 1864 Attending Court in the Wiley case— At night wrote an article for Dr Morton in reply to Dr Jackson

Wednesday June 15 Attending Court in the Wiley case— Mr Brent, my associate, not present to day. After Court went with Swett to War Department and had an interview with Mr Stanton about Parishes pork contract

Thursday June 16 Progressing with the Wiley case

<sup>1</sup>The case of Wiley *vs.* Brown, here mentioned by Browning, is not reported among the published decisions of the United States Supreme Court.

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington



Friday June 17 Closed our evidence \*this morning, and Mr Bradley, one of the counsel for the defence being sick we adjourned till Monday.

Hill arrived this evening

Wash-  
ngton

Saturday June 18, 1864 Saw Secy Welles in morning about Stovers case—Then worked in my office till night; then went and saw the President about fees in Phillips cases, in Illinois, about Adml Wilke's case, and about appointment of Eben Moore to Montano

Sunday June 19 \*At Mr Chesters church in the morning

Monday June 20 Attending Court. Defendant in case of Wiley vs Brown commenced his evidence to day. After Court went to Senate on Dr Mortons business, and then wrote an article for him

Wash-  
ngton

Tuesday June 21, 1864 Attending Court, and then at the Senate for Dr Morton

Wednesday June 22 Progressing with the Wiley Brown case—After dinner visited Capt Rice at Armory Square Hospital

Thursday June 23 Proceeding with the trial

Friday June 24 Progressing with trial—Adjourned Court till Monday—

Saturday June 25 At War Department about Mrs Carrolls and Parrishs cases—At night went with the President and assistant Secy Fox to the Navy Yard to witness the throwing of Rockets and signals from 6 & 12 pound guns—Went in Presidents carriage and returned at 10 O'clock at night

Wash-  
ngton

Sunday June 26, 1864 During the past week, the President visited Grants army, and returned only a day or two ago—He told me last night that Grant said, when he left him, that "you Mr President, need be under no apprehension. You will never hear of me farther from Richmond than now, till I have taken it. I am just as sure of going into Richmond as I am of any future event. It may take a long summer day, but I will go in." The President added that Grant told him that in the Wilderness he had completely routed Lee, but did not know it at the time—

Wash-  
ington

and that had he known it, he could have ruined him, and ended the campaign.

\*Monday June 27 Attending Court, and proceeding with the trial

Tuesday June 28 Started my servants Thomas Harris and John Lowe home this morning. They are to go by Chicago and take our daughter Emma home with them Closed the evidence in the Wiley case, and Mr Brent commenced the argument of the case on our side to day

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday June 29, 1864 Went to War Department about Parrishs pork contract, to Bank for Capt Rice and then to Court. Brent concluded his argument. In the evening went with Mrs Browning to the National and called on Mrs Stephens and Mrs Walworth—then to the Hospital to see Capt Rice and give him some money.

\*Thursday June 30 Davidge commenced his speech

Friday July 1 Davidge concluded, and I began and spoke a little over an hour before adjournment

Wash-  
ington  
Saturday

Saturday July 2, 1864 Spoke 5 hourse in the Wiley Brown case without concluding, and Court adjourned till Tuesday.

In the evening Adml & Mrs Wilkes, and the Misses Wilkes called and invited us to dine with them on the 4.

Sunday July 3. At Mr Chesters Church in A M \*In the evening went to the hospital to see Capt Rice, and met with his father who has come on a visit to him

Monday July 4 Congress adjourned at 12 M \*Mrs B—Hill & myself dined at Adml Wilkes. \*Returned home at 9 O'clock. Mr Rice came to stay with us a few days—

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday July 5, 1864 Concluded the Wiley, Brown case this morning, speaking an hour and a half—Then went to the Treasury Depart: & saw Controler Taylor about Carmicks case—Our household breaking up—Senators & Representatives leaving

Wednesday July 6 At Departments, and then at work in office

Thursday July 7 At Departments in morning & then at work in office. In p. m. Mr Secretary Seward sent for me and stated that he and the President desired me to accept the appointment of Commr under the treaty for the settlement of the claims of the Hudson Bay & Pugets Sound Agricultural companies.<sup>1</sup> The British Commr to come here and the Commission to sit in Washington I asked till Saturday to consider the proposal. Upon examining the treaty I find the duties will be very arduous, and the Compensation \$5000 inadequate—and that I would have to abandon important professional engagements which honor & interest both forbid me to do, and I must decline the offer—

Friday July 8. At the departments and then at work in office

\*Saturday July 9 Called on Mr Seward & declined appointment under the treaty with Great Britain. Then at Treasury

Sunday July 10, 1864 At Mr Chesters Church in the morning

\*Monday July 11. Wrote Mr Secy Seward declining the appointment under the treaty with Great Britain

Tuesday July 12 The City in a state of siege.<sup>2</sup> The rebels are in Front of Fort Stephens out 7<sup>th</sup> Street—Some skirmishing going on <sup>early</sup> till day—the sound of the guns occasionally heard.

The telegraph wires are cut, and 7 or 8 miles of the Rail Road torn up not far out of the City. The rebel force is variously estimated at from 20 to 50,000. At night I met with Reverdy

<sup>1</sup>By a treaty proclaimed in 1864 Great Britain and the United States each agreed to appoint one commissioner to examine and decide upon the claims of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company concerning lands and other property held by these companies within the territory acquired by the United States by the Oregon treaty of 1846. *U. S. Statutes at Large*, 13: 651-653.

<sup>2</sup>In July, 1864, Washington was seriously menaced by a raiding force of 20,000 veterans under the Confederate general, Jubal A. Early. On July 11, Early approached from the north till he came within sight of the capitol dome, and, had he pressed on, the untrained militia and raw volunteers of the district could not have prevented him from raiding the national capital. Soon, however, an adequate force from the Army of the Potomac appeared and the capital was saved. Rhodes, *History of the Civil War, 1861-1865*, pp. 325-328.

Wash-  
ington

Johnson, and we went together to the War Department and spent a half hour or more with Mr Stanton. He felt no apprehension whatever for the safety of the City—said we had plenty of troops here to defend it, and it was impossible for the rebels to get in

In conversation about Genl<sup>s</sup> he spoke of Butler, Hunter, Siegle, & Lew Wallace in very depreciating terms—Spoke in very high terms of Schofield—said he was earnest, faithful & able, and had failed in nothing he had undertaken, and that the opposition to him had been unreasonable & groundless. Said Genl Chas Smith, now dead, was the ablest officer we had had

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday July 13, 1864 At War Department in the morning. In the evening Mrs Browning and I called at Atto: Genl Bates. In conversation with him upon the State of the Country he expressed the opinion that our great want was a competent man at the head of affairs, or as he expressed it a competent leader—He read me a letter he had written to some gentle man in Philadelphia to this effect, but still did not know how we were

Atto Genl

to do better than support Lincoln. Said he <sup>^</sup> had resisted radicalism and vandalism, and put himself upon record against them. Company came in and the conversation was broken off

\*Wash-  
ington

Thursday July 14, 1864 Rebels all gone. Blockade raised. At home all day.

Friday July 15 At War & Treasury Departments, and Surgeon Genl<sup>s</sup>. He told me he had 120,000 beds in the Hospitals, and that 30,000 had not been sufficient to supply the wounded sent from Grant's army.

Met the President between the War Department & White House—Said he was in the dumps—that the rebels who had besieged us were all escaped.

\*In the evening Mrs B & I called at Mr Secretary Swards and spent an hour—Met Edw: Joy Morris, our minister to Constantinople there.<sup>1</sup> Also called at P M Genl Blairs, Genl Emorys, Judge Waynes and Rev Dr Gurley's

<sup>1</sup>Edward Joy Morris, 1815-1881. Whig congressman from Pennsylvania, 1843-1845; chargé d'affaires to Naples, 1850-1853; congressman, 1857-1861; 1861-1870, minister to Turkey. Author of various works, chiefly of travel.



Wash-  
ington

Saturday July 16, 1864 Called at the Presidents and spent an hour. Among other things he showed me a letter from Genl Halleck to Mr Stanton demanding that P M Genl Blair should be dismissed from the cabinet for saying the officers in command in Washington were poltroons for permitting the rebels to blockade the City and burn private residences almost under our guns. It was sent by Stanton to the President—He read me the letter and his reply, in which he said he should be the sole judge of when, and for what to dismiss a cabinet officer.<sup>1</sup> In the evening Mrs B and I called at Mr Middletons

†Sunday—At Church†

Wash-  
ington

\*Monday July 18 1864 At Departments in morning on business—  
Sun 7  
In P. M. went with Hill, and introduced him to a number of the Officials. In the evening Mrs B and I called at Mr Chesters & Mr Stuarts

Tuesday July 19 Called with Mr Joel Rice at the Presidents—Busy preparing to leave for home tomorrow

\*Wednesday July 20 Mrs B and I left Washington at 7 A. M. on our way home. Dined at Philadelphia at the Continental and at 10½ P M took the cars for Pittsburg, and went to bed

On the  
Road

Thursday July 21, 1864 Breakfasted at Altoona—met Adml Wilkes & family there—At Pittsburg Frank Cowan joined us to go with us home. Took supper at Alliance and at 10 P M took the sleeping cars at Crestline

Friday July 22 Reached Chicago at 9 A M and stopped at Briggs House—Between 9 & 10 P M took sleeping cars for home.

Saturday July 23 Reached home at 9½ this morning—Frank Cowan with us. Found Emma and Miss Kate Palmer at our house to recieve us.

<sup>1</sup>In a letter to Stanton dated July 14, 1864, concerning "offensive remarks supposed to have been made by the Postmaster-General concerning the military officers on duty about Washington" which caused General Halleck to demand Blair's removal from the cabinet, Lincoln stated that he did not consider hasty words as sufficient ground for such a step, and that he proposed continuing to be himself the judge as to when a member of the cabinet should be dismissed. Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln, Complete Works* (2 vols., New York, 1894), 2:547-548.

- Quincy Sunday July 24, 1864 Attended Church in the morning.  
 Monday July 25 Rode out to my place in 8<sup>th</sup> street  
 Tuesday July 26 In the morning Bushnell & I rode out to my place in 8<sup>th</sup> street. In P. M. Emma and I attended funeral of Mrs Sartell  
 Wednesday July 27 Took medicine last night and stayed at home to day  
 \*Thursday, Friday and Saturday 28, 29, 30 Lying about home taking my ease & resting
- Quincy Sunday July 31, 1864 This morning called on Mrs Stevens, daughter of the late Col E. D. Baker, at the Quincy House, where she arrived last night, and brought her and her two children to our house. Attended Church in the morning  
 \*Monday Augt 1 After dinner took a ride with Mrs Stevens to my place in 8<sup>th</sup> street & elsewhere  
 Tuesday Augt 2 After breakfast Mrs Stevens and her children left in the stage for Barry In conversation in my parlor this P M with Hon I N Morris he stated that when Hon S A Douglass came to Illinois in the spring of 1861, and make speeches in favor of the war against the rebellion it was on an understanding between him and President Lincoln that he, Douglass, should have command of the Army—and that it was Douglass intention after achieving some Military successes to turn against the Administration—depose Lincoln and set up a provisional government for his own benefit  
 Wednesday Augt 3  
 Thursday Augt 4 At Home
- Quincy Friday Augt 5, 1864 At Home  
 Saturday Augt 6 At Home. In the evening Mrs B and I attended meeting at Mr Emerys Church held to make arrangements for a Sanitary Fair  
 Sunday Augt 7 At Church in morning  
 Monday Augt 8 At Home  
 Tuesday Augt 9 Executive committee of Sanitary Fair met here this morning

\*Wednesday Augt 10 At Home all day reading

Thursday Augt 11, 1864 At home through the day. Mrs B and I, and Gilpin & wife out at Col Cox's to dinner at 5 p. m. Cox thinks the war will be ended in less than a year by the subjection and submission of the South. If they do not submit thinks we ought to, and will, carry the war to the point of extermination.

\*Friday Augt 12. At home

Saturday Augt 13 Col Cox & family & Capt Gilpin & family with us to break fast. At night attended Tableaux at Pinkham Hall given by the children

Sunday Augt 14, 1864 At Church in morning

Monday Augt 15 At Home

\*Tuesday Augt 16 Small party of young persons at my house this evening

Wednesday Augt 17 Mrs B & I walked out to our place in 8<sup>th</sup> Street this morning.

Thursday Augt 18 Frank Cowan, who came home with us on our return from Washington, left this p. m.

Mrs B and I walked out to our place in 8<sup>th</sup> street in the evening

Friday Augt 19, 1864 With my horse Major, and buggy Mr Bushnell and I drove down to Payson to day, and 1½ miles beyond to see a piece of land I own. Came back to Payson, and dined with Mr Wallace, Mr Bushnells' tenant Got back home a little after 6 p. m.

Saturday Augt 20 After breakfast walked out to my place in 8<sup>th</sup> Street

Sunday Augt 21 At Church in A. M

Monday Augt 22 At Home—Walked out to New House

Tuesday Augt 23, 1864 In morning Mrs B. Emma and I walked out to new House. They rode back In evening walked out to Mr Asbury's and called at Mr Greelys

Wednesday Augt 24 In the morning rode out to new House

\*Thursday Augt 25 At Home

Quincy  
Wash-  
ington

Quincy

Quincy

Quincy

Friday Augt 26. Emma went to Mr Shermans on a visit—

7

In the evening Mrs B and I rode out

Saturday Augt 27 Mrs B & I rode out to our new house

Quincy

Sunday Augt 28, 1864 At Church A. M. In the evening Bushnell and I walked out to my new house

Monday Augt 29 At home.

Tuesday Augt 30 At home. In the evening Mrs B & I walked out to Mr Rice's

Wednesday Augt 31 At night went to prayer meeting with Mrs Browning. On our return found the yard full of people with a band of music serenading. The occasion of their being out was the nomination of Genl McClellan for the Presidency I made them a short speech<sup>1</sup>

\*Quincy

Thursday Sept 1, 1864 Mr Palmer & family dined with us—

Friday Sept 2 Walked out to my new house after dinner

Saturday Sept 3. This and the two preceding days have, I believe, been the hottest of the season Intelligence of the cap-

<sup>1</sup>*The Quincy Whig*, September 1, 1864, gives the following account of the meeting:

"As a sort of a sideshow, a crowd with band of music marched to the residence of Hon. O. H. Browning, to give him a serenade. Here occurred the richest joke of the evening. The report had been industriously circulated during the day that Mr Browning would make a 'Democratic' speech in the evening. So he was called out in response to the music, acknowledged the compliment, said he liked good music, supposed it was intended for himself and family, and, with hat in hand, bade them good night and made motions to retire:—But not so—a speech was demanded. In reply, said he, 'I am not a Democrat, never was a Democrat, and have always been opposed to the Democratic party.' Furthermore, if he were to make a political speech, he would be very apt to say something that would be very distasteful to them. He would repeat what he had said before that McClellan was a great general, and if elected President should receive his support in all measures calculated to restore the Union to its former peace and prosperity. In like manner he would support Fremont or any other administration. He had not seen the platform of the Chicago Convention, and consequently could not endorse or condemn it. He had not spoken as a politician since the first gun was fired upon Sumter, and would not until our common country was saved from the infernal plottings of traitors and rebels.

"We need not report further. Enough to say that the chop fallen Cops left very much disheartened as they evidently expected a different kind of a speech. . . ."



ture of Atlanta by Genl Sherman reached us this morning, & in the afternoon Col Lockwood & Mr Brooker called on me to say there was to be a meeting in Washington Square, at night, to celebrate the victory, and to invite me to attend and address the meeting, which I consented to do. At 8 p. m. I went down—found a large crowd in attendance waiting for me—I spoke  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour—Congratulated them that standing as we were upon the eve of a Presidential election which promised to be one of more than usual animation, if not excitement, that an occasion was now presented upon which all patriots of all political parties

could unite with <sup>out</sup> a asperity, to rejoice over the triumphs of our arms. After a eulogy upon Genl Sherman, and his gallant army, I proceeded to say that the most ardent desire of my heart was to see this desolating war at an end, and peace, fraternity and happiness restored to the land, but that we could have no permanent peace which would give us prosperity except upon the basis of the Union, and that we could have no union until the great masses of the people in rebellion were brought to consent to return to the old government and to submit to its laws, for there could be no union with an unwilling people. To accomplish this we must break the power of the rebel armies, and separate the people from their wicked and ambitious leaders, by assuring them that whenever they laid down their arms, and returned to their allegiance, they should be restored to their rights, and receive the protection of the government in person and property—that we could not treat millions of people as traitors and punish them as traitors, and the effect of attempting to do it would be to keep them in revolt—that no great rebellion was ever happily terminated without a general amnesty to the masses, and without it we could not restore the union, but we hoped to be able to make examples of the leaders &c That the people of the South were deluded, and believed that the old government was their enemy and that they were to be disfranchised and stripped of their property whenever they submitted to its authority—that we must dispel this delusion, and assure them that our only purpose in prosecuting the war was to suppress the rebellion, restore the union and re establish the authority of the constitution and laws,

Quincy and that when this end was attained the war should cease, and that whenever they ceased resistance and returned to their allegiance they should be restored to the enjoyment of all their rights.

The meeting was composed of men of all parties, and I carefully avoided subjects of a merely partizan character, and made no allusion to the Presidential candidates. I did say, however, that I thought the rebellion the most causeless and atrocious piece of political wickedness the world ever saw, and that it must be put down at whatever cost, and that more men must yet be raised for that object. My remarks were received with every demonstration of approval, and I had reason to believe were acceptable to all, but Genl B M Prentiss took the stand, and was almost denunciatory in his dissent.<sup>1</sup>

Quincy He called God to witness that he would never consent that any man who had borne arms against this government should ever enjoy the rights of citizenship again—that he did not recognize the Southern people as his erring brethren, and would never agree to live under the same government with them—that he was for emancipation, confiscation and every other measure that could be adopted against them—yet strange inconsistency he announced, in the same speech, his belief that hundreds of thousands of men in the rebel army were as loyal as he was. He had much to say in praise of Prest: Lincoln and Genl Grant, <sup>about</sup> and in abuse of the democratic party &c

Quincy When he concluded Jack Grimshaw took the stand. He was drunk, and as coarse and vulgar as drunk. He raved and fumed—denounced our “erring Southern brethren”—not one of them should ever enjoy the rights of citizenship again—their Country should be given to the negroes, and if they did n’t like to live among negroes they could leave &c. He had a brother in the army who had been shot thro the arm—his law partner Williams had a brother in law who had been in Libby prison, and he was

<sup>1</sup>The *Quincy Whig* of September 5, 1864, was quite severe on Browning, calling his speech turning and dodging. It declared Browning had so far failed to declare his position and it was to be hoped he would do so.

not willing that the Southern people should ever have rights under this government again.

Quincy

He defended arbitrary arrests, and found fault that more of them had not been made, and said that when a man was arrested and put in prison he should never be permitted to see the light of day again till the war was over. He was fierce in his abuse of the democratic party and copperheads &c.

Both he and Prentiss were loudly cheered, but by only a small part of the audience—I think not more than fifty or sixty.

\*Sunday Sept 4 At Church in the morning. In the p. m. had heavy rain. At 3 p. m. attended funeral of Geo Bond Jr. who was killed at Memphis—Went to cemetery in carriage with Rev Mr Willis & his daughter & Mrs Pomeroy

Quincy

Monday Sept 5, 1864 Our young friend John Watts of Santa Fe, arrived this morning on a visit

Tuesday Sept 6. Judge Watts of Santa Fe arrived to night

Wednesday Sept 7 Before breakfast rode out to my new house with Judge Watts. Senator Doolittle came to breakfast. After breakfast the Watts' took their leave of us, and started on their way to Santa Fe Doolittle and I rode out to my new house, and after dinner he took the cars for home

Quincy

Thursday Sept 8 1864 At Home.

Friday Sept 9 In the morning rode out to my new house with Mrs Gilpin. <sup>Last</sup> At night attended concert at Pinkham Hall for benefit of Miss Emma Bushnell. At night called with Mrs B at Mr Bushnells & Mr Morris—

Saturday Sept 10 This morning Mrs B and I rode out to new house to select places for cisterns

\*Sunday Sept 11 Took some medicine last night, and at home all day to day

Quincy

Monday Sept 12, 1864 In the morning Emma & I walked out to my new house—In the evening Mrs B and I called at Gov<sup>r</sup> Woods, Mr Glenns & Mr Collins'.

Tuesday Sept 13 In the morning rode out to my new house with Mrs Greeley. In the evening Mrs B and I called at Col Benneson's—Has been the hottest day of the season.

Wednesday Sept 14 At home

\*Thursday Sept 15 At home

Quincy

Friday Sept 16, 1864 Hon C B Lawrence dined with me to day. Has urged me earnestly to declare myself in favor of re election of Mr Lincoln

Saturday Sept 17 In the morning Judge Lawrence, Mr Bushnell, Mr Farwell & myself walked out to my new place, and called at Col Cox's. Lawrence dined with me. In the evening went to Circus with Emma. We were driven home by the rain.

Sunday Sept 18. At our Church in morning and Mr Emerys at night

Quincy

Monday Sept 19, 1864 At home

Tuesday Sept 20 Adml Wilkes & family consisting of Mrs Wilkes, Miss Jane & Eliza—the little daughter Mary & a servant arrived to breakfast

girl. In the forenoon the Adml & myself rode out to my new house

Wednesday Sept 21. In forenoon Mrs B & I took a ride of 6 or 7 miles around the Country with Adml Wilkes & family—Also visited our new place in 8<sup>th</sup> Street

Thursday Sept 22 Adml & I took a ride in forenoon In the evening had a small party of our friends to meet him and his family

\*Quincy

Friday Sept 23, 1864 At 4 P M Adml Wilkes & family took leave of us, going to St Louis via Springfield

Saturday Sept 24 Republican meeting here to day. I heard Genl A. C. Harding, Senator Doolittle, & Genl Oglesby

A. C. speak in Washington Square. Oglesby called at night—

Sunday Sept 25 Geo Bangs of Aurora Beacon breakfasted with us—Genl A. C. Harding dined with us. At Church in the forenoon.



\*Quincy

Monday Sept 26, 1864 Packing up and getting ready to start to Washington

\*Tuesday Sept 27 Called on Gov Wood this morning, and then Mrs B & I rode out to our new house. At 4½ P. M. bade them good bye at home, and took the cars on my way to Washington

Wednesday Sept 28 Breakfasted at the Richmond House, Chicago—then took the cars on the Michigan Central Road, and just after night crossed the River from Detroit into Canada.

Thursday Sept 29 Just after sunrise crossed the Niagara below the falls on the suspension bridge—Had a good view of the falls from the bridge Reached Albany and took passage down the Hudson on Steamer St John at 10 P M

New  
York

†Friday Sept 30, 1864† Day found us somewhere between West Point and the City of New York—It was between 9 & 10 A. M. when we reached the City, so that I had a fine view of the Scenery on the River. Stopped at the Astor House, Room 196

Wrote to Mrs Browning—then went to the house of Schanck & Son, and purchased glass for my new house. At night attended Wallack's Theatre, and heard "She Stoops to Conquer" pretty well played.

New  
York &  
Wash-  
ington

Saturday Oct 1, 1864 \*Closed all my business here to day, and at 7 P M took a sleeping car for Washington

Sunday Oct 2 Reached Washington at 7 A. M. Taking my meals for the time being at Mrs Carters. Boarding

Monday Oct 3 Capt Black, Mrs Taylor & Mr Poole here on business this morning. At night called at the Presidents, but he was out at Soldiers home

Tuesday Oct 4 \*At Presidents in P. M. He at war Dept & did not see him. Washburn came into Presidents room—Showed him my letter to Henderson<sup>1</sup> which he highly approved

<sup>1</sup>This was a letter of October 3 to W. D. Henderson, of Monmouth, in reply to his inquiry as to whether Browning intended to support McClellan. It indicated that he would not for the reason that McClellan would have to square his conduct with a party platform which looked to recognition of an independent South. Browning did not say that he would support Lincoln, and there is no evidence that he did.

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Oct 5, 1864 At Presidents in the morning with Capt Black & Mr Poole. Then at the Departments Hill left for St Louis last night—†Hon E. B.† Washburn called this p m and asked for copy of my letter to Col W D Henderson which I gave him

Thursday Oct 6

At Departments in morning

Friday Oct 7 At Presidents and got order for Judge Advocate Burnett to examine & report on cases of Capt Black & N B Taylor Spoke to him about permission for Mrs Johnson, daughter of Judge Nicolas of Louisville, to go South. He said the Admtn seemed to him to act on the principle of being as contrary as possible with rebels—those who did not want to go they sent forcibly—those who wished to go they would not permit to. 'Twas not his feeling

\*Wash-  
ington

Saturday Oct 8, 1864 At Departments in morning

Sunday Oct 9. Attended preaching, by Mr Chester, in one of the Committee rooms in House end of capitol

Monday Oct 10 Called on Judge Wayne and got bond approved, and citation signed in a California case. At night called on Mr Stanton at War Department, and had a talk about contrabands at Quincy.

\*Tuesday Oct 11 At Departments in the morning. At Judge Bates at night

Wednesday Oct 12 At the Departments, and at work in my room

Wash-  
ington

Thursday Oct 13, 1864 Chief Justice Taney died last night. This morning I called on Secy Fessenden on business for Mr Wm Butler of Illinois, and others, and after despatching my business I asked Mr Fessenden if his friends, without his participation, would procure him to be appointed Chief Justice, he would accept the place. He replied that it would be vain to make an effort in his behalf, and that he could not consent that any steps should be taken by his friends looking to such a result, for he knew that the place was designed for Mr Chase, and that the appointment would be tendered to him, and accepted by him

—that when Mr Chase resigned as Secretary of the Treasury, and Tod, of Ohio, was nominated to the vacancy he, Fessenden, as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate called on the President to induce him to withdraw Tod's nomination and reinstate Mr Chase—that the President refused to do so, and showed a determination not to take him back into the cabinet, but remarked that he had great respect for Mr Chase, and that if the Chief Justiceship of the Supreme Court was now vacant he would appoint him to that place—that previously when it was thought the Chief Justice was near his end, he had made up his mind, in the event of his death to appoint Mr Chase, and that he had not changed his mind, and would appoint him now if the place was vacant. Mr Fessenden added that he had communicated this conversation to Mr Chase as his friend—that he was satisfied Mr Chase would accept, and that he could not now, honorably, consent that any movement should be made in his behalf

I did not further press the subject, tho I was entirely sincere in my offer. Judge Curtis of Massachusetts was my first choice, but I knew there was no hope of his appointment, and I, therefore, sincerely desired the appointment of Mr Fessenden knowing him to be a good lawyer, and a thoroughly upright man.

Called at Marshal Lamons to meet Mr Scherr of Illinois on business—then called on Mr Carlisle, and then returned to my room and went to work. At night called on Mrs Genl Wright

\*Friday Oct 14 At Departments for Butler & others

Saturday Oct 15, 1864 At the Departments. Between 9 & 10 O'clock at night Edwin Stanton called to say they had moved in from Soldiers home, and that his mother wished to see me tomorrow.

Sunday Oct 16. At Mr Chesters Church in the morning, he preaching for the present, in one of the Committee rooms in the house end of the Capitol.

At night I called on Mrs Stanton—the Secy had gone to City Point. She expressed to me a great desire to have her husband appointed Chief Justice, to fill the vacancy occasioned by Judge Taney's death, and wished me to see the President upon the

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

subject.<sup>1</sup> I fear Mr Chase's appointment, and am anxious to prevent it. Mr Stanton is an able lawyer, learned in his profession, and fond of it, of great application, and capacity of endurance in labor—I think a just man—honest and upright, and incapable of corruption, and I, therefore, think would be an appointment most fit to be made. I will see the President upon the subject tomorrow

Wash-  
ington

Monday Oct 17, 1864 Called on the President and urged on him the appointment of Mr Stanton as chief Justice. He said nothing in reply to what I urged except to admit Mr Stanton's ability, and fine qualifications. I think he was pleased with what I said and I have some hope that he will adopt my suggestion.

Tuesday Oct 18 At work in my room—I omitted to mention that in my interview with the President, yesterday, he told me that Atto Genl Bates had personally solicited the Chief Justiceship of him

Wednesday Oct 19 At the Departments in the morning and at work at my room in the afternoon

Thursday Oct 20 At the Departments in the forenoon, and at work at my room in the afternoon

Wash-  
ington

Friday Oct 21, 1864 At Departments in A M and at work at my room in P M At night attended Grover's Theatre to hear Mr & Mrs Barney Williams

Saturday Oct 22 At Departments A M & P M

Sunday Oct 23 Attended Mr Chesters Church at the Capitol in forenoon

Monday Oct 24. At Treasury Department all day on Butlers business. Got permit for him to bring out cotton signed by Secy of Treasury.

<sup>1</sup>Lincoln's secretaries state that Stanton's influence was used to obtain the appointment of Chase as chief justice. Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln: A History*, 9: 391. It is interesting to note, in connection with Browning's efforts to put Stanton in this position, that others entertained the same desire. Justice R. C. Grier wrote to Stanton as follows on October 13, 1864, in reference to the chief justiceship: "I think that the President owes it to you that you should retire in this honorable position." Stanton Papers, Library of Congress, No. 55720.



Additional authority from the President requisite, and Mr Risley, Supervising Treasury Agent, prepared the paper he thought ought to be signed, and went with me to the President with it. He requested us to leave it with him over night for consideration, which we did.

Whilst there Mr Risley informed him that the vote of the 112<sup>th</sup> N Y Regt, at the front, had been taken and that the result was 688 for Lincoln—12 for McClelland. He replied Yes, and these votes will probably all be counted for McClellan—there is a Scheme on foot to do it—We have got hold of the ends of the threads, but have not yet fully unraveled them.

At night called and spent an hour with Mrs P M Genl Blair, and an hour at Mr Secretary Sewards, where I met Earl Airley of Scotland

Tuesday Oct 25 At Treasury Department most of the day. Finished Mr Butlers business by getting permit to bring out cotton signed by Secy of Treasury and President

Wednesday Oct 26 Capt Rice and his father who have been here in the house since August started home this morning

Thursday Oct 27, 1864 Breakfasted at Metropolitan with Mr La Forge of New York—We went with him to the President to get permission for a young Frenchman by the name of Shiff, who had been a Surgeon in the confederate service—captured at the Wilderness in May—brought to old capitol prison, and then paroled—to withdraw an oath of Allegiance which he took to this government when paroled. Shiff was tired of the rebellion and did not wish to go back to the service, and on the other hand did not intend to take an oath of allegiance to this government, and alleges that he was not fully aware of what he was doing, but supposed only what would entitle him to be paroled.

His father, who is now dead, once lived in New Orleans and had invested in Southern stocks, and loaned money on mortgages, and there is a large indebtedness from the rebels to the family, who are now in Paris. Shiff himself is in Paris with his mother. She is afraid if the rebels find out that her son has taken the oath of allegiance to this government they will confiscate her large interests in the South, and that she will be

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

Wash-  
ington

unable to collect any portion of the debts due the family there, and, therefore, desires leave for him to withdraw the oath.

The President was very amiable, and seemed inclined to grant the request, but said he would consult Secy Seward, and see what his views were. He sent for Seward—We waited a half hour, and he did not come. The President then asked me to go over and see him. I took Mr La Forge with me and started over. When we got near the State Department we met Seward on his way to the Presidents. We turned back and we all went into the State Department. I stated the case to him and showed him the oath of allegiance Signed by Shiff. He read it over and then said there was no power on earth that could release him from it, and that it should not be done if it could. Mr La Forge asked if Shiff, being a Surgeon, and non combatant was not entitled to be paroled without taking the oath—that he thought Surgeons and Chaplains were regarded as non combatants, and not retained as prisoners of war as those in arms were

Wash-  
ington

Mr Seward got very much excited, and said no, they were not non combatants but d m d rebel belligerents who were trying to destroy this government—that Shiff had no right to be paroled—that we had a right to have taken his head off, and that he ought to be thankful that he was allowed to go away with it on his shoulders &c.

e

I suggested that being a Frenchman that oath of allegiance could not make him a citizen over whom we could claim jurisdiction, and I did not perceive that with drawing the oath could do us any harm, and that if the old lady was disturbed by it, and thought it put her property in danger of confiscation by the rebels, I could see no objection to granting the permission asked.

He replied that the oath he had taken did not make him a citizen, and that he was not a French man, but a dmd rebel belligerent trying to overthrow this government, and that it was an insult to this government to assume that the rebels could confiscate property—they could do no such thing, and that this government intended to protect all persons in their property and rights, and the rebels could not confiscate anything &c &c

Wash-  
ington

He became very much excited and was boisterous and profane to Mr La Forge—

We left him, of course, without having accomplished anything. In the afternoon Mr La Forge called at my room, and we went again to the Presidents, but did not get an interview

I then dined with Mr La Forge at the Metropolitan at 4 P. M. and the returned to my room.

\*Hal Wright called to see me to day

Wash-  
ington

Friday Oct 28, 1864 Breakfasted with Mr La Forge at Metropolitan. Then went to the Presidents and had another interview with him about the young Frenchman Shiff He said Seward had been over to see him about it, and urged his objections to granting the request—that he did not see that any injury could result from it, but as Seward objected he believed he would do nothing

Saturday Oct 29 Breakfasted at Mrs Carters \*Called at Mrs Burrs, Mr Kennedys Dr Gurley's, & Misses Halstead & Williams to make enquiry about a school for Emma Dr Gurley very despondent about the Country. Dined at Metropolitan

Sunday Oct 30 Breakfasted at Mrs Carters—Attended preaching by Mr Chester at the Capitol Dined at Gautiers restaurant

\*Wash-  
ington

Monday Oct 31, 1864 At the Department in the morning—Dined at Senate Restaurant

Tuesday Nov 1 At Departments in the morning Rode out to Georgetown to see Miss Hal Wright, but she was not there. Dined at Senate restaurant

Wednesday Nov 2 Resumed boarding at Mrs Carters to day

Thursday Nov 3 At Departments in the morning, and then at work at my room

Friday Nov 4 At Departments in morning—then at work at my room

Saturday Nov 5 At Departments and out at Georgetown in forenoon, then at work at my room

Wash-  
ington

Sunday Nov 6, 1864 At Church at the Capitol in morning. Some stranger preached At night called on Mrs Genl Wright—then on Adml Wilkes family

Monday Nov 7. At work at my room

Tuesday Nov 8<sup>1</sup> At Departments in the morning—then at work at my room

Wednesday Nov 9 At work at my room

Thursday Nov 10 At Departments in the morning—then at work at my room. At night went with Mrs Genl Wright and called on Mrs Stanton

Friday Nov 11. At Departments in the morning Went to Adml Wilkes at 4 P. M. intending to dine with them. They were all from home, and I got my dinner at White House Restaurant At night called at Mr McLeod's

Saturday Nov 12 At Departments in the morning Then at work at home

Wash-  
ington

Sunday Nov 13, 1864 At Mr Chester Church in A. M. Rev Mr Erskine of Sterling, Ills: preached. \*In the evening called on Mrs Beck at Mr Denhams

\*Monday Nov 14 At Departments in the morning—then at work at my room. Mrs Beck called on me to assist her in getting rooms for herself and father, which I did—procured them at Mr Wells' —

In the evening called on the President. He told me Genl Canby and Genl Hurlburt, in Louisiana, were doing all they could to break down the state government, organized under the new constitution, and to deprive the negroes of all benefit they had expected to derive from it, and he was then writing a letter, to Genl Hurlburt on the subject.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Browning makes no reference in the diary to the presidential election of November 8, 1864, in which Lincoln decisively defeated McClellan, receiving 212 electoral votes to McClellan's 21. In addition, the 39th Congress, elected on the same day, was overwhelmingly Republican. The first session of this Congress began on December 4, 1865.

<sup>2</sup>On November 14, 1864, President Lincoln wrote privately to Major General Hurlbut in Louisiana, deploring the bitter military opposition to the newly established civil government of the state. Nicolay and Hay, *Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 10: 266-269.



From the Presidents I went to the Rugby House, and called on Mr & Mrs Bridge

\*The President told me had not yet written a word of his message, and thought he would close doors tomorrow and go to work at it

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday Nov 15, 1864 At the Departments in the morning —At work at my room in P. M. In the evening professor Donald McLeod called and sat with me till after 10 O'clock

Wednesday Nov 16 At Departments in the morning \*At work at my room in P M

Thursday Nov 17 At Departments in the morning—then at work at my room In the evening called at Adml Wilkes, and at Mr Secy Swards. At Mr Swards met Baron Jeroult<sup>1</sup> the Prussian Minister, and Mr Koerner, our Minister to Spain.<sup>2</sup>

Friday Nov 18. At work at my room through the day. Dined at Adml Wilkes

Saturday Nov 19 At Departments in the morning—then at work at my room

Sunday Nov 20 At Mr Chesters Church in the Capitol in forenoon

Washington Monday, Nov 21. 1864 At Treasury Department A. M. and then at work at my room

Tuesday Nov 22 Same as above

Wednesday Nov 23 Same as above

Thursday Nov 24 Thanksgiving day—Genl Singleton<sup>3</sup> called this morning. Told me he had just come from Canada where he had had an interview with Clay & Tucker, the Rebel

<sup>1</sup>Baron F. von Gerolt was at this time Prussian minister to the United States.

<sup>2</sup>Gustave Koerner was minister to Spain from 1862 to 1864.

<sup>3</sup>Concerning General James W. Singleton of Illinois, see also 15 n. 1. Being associated with the anti-war Democrats, he was denounced as a "copperhead." His brother, O. R. Singleton, was a member of the Confederate Congress. In commenting on Singleton's efforts as a self-appointed peace commissioner to the Confederacy in 1865, the *Chicago Tribune* expressed the hope that he and Judge Hughes of Indiana, his associate, would "be retained among their friends until the close of the war." *Chicago Tribune*, February 25, 1865.

Commissioners, and was here to see the President in regard to negotiations for peace—that the aforesaid rebels were anxious for peace upon the basis of the Union, and thought the people of the seceded states would return if an amnesty was offered, and slavery let alone.

I said I thought the President would make the abolition of slavery a condition precedent to any settlement. He replied that he knew he would not—that he had a long interview with him before the election—that the President showed him all the correspondence between himself and Greeley<sup>1</sup> preceding “To whom it may concern,” and said that “To whom it may concern” put him in a false position—that he did not mean to make the abolition of slavery a condition, and that after the election he would be willing to grant peace with an amnesty, and restoration of the union, leaving slavery to abide the decisions of judicial tribunals ~~decisions~~—and that now the election was over he was going again to see him upon the subject, and would let me know the result of the interview.

He also showed me a letter from Judge Peck to himself giving an account of a conversation he had had with the President as “go between” for Singleton

Singleton took much credit to himself for the defeat of Genl McClellan—saying that McClellan's election would have been followed by a continuance of the war, and that the President had assured him that slavery should not stand in the way of a settlement.

<sup>1</sup>When in the summer of 1864 Horace Greeley proposed peace negotiations and proceeded to Niagara where he met “agents” of the Confederacy (who had no credentials), President Lincoln submitted to Greeley a paper in his own handwriting, entitled “To whom it may concern,” in which “the abandonment of slavery” was insisted upon as a condition for the termination of the war. At the time of the Hampton Roads Conference, on January 31, 1865, Lincoln submitted to Secretary Seward a memorandum of instructions in which he insisted that there should be “no receding . . . on the slavery question . . .” Considering these statements, one reads with surprise Singleton's report of Lincoln's statement that “he did not mean to make the abolition of slavery a condition,” but Lincoln seems also to have made the same statement to Browning himself, on December 24 (see *post*, 699). For Lincoln's instructions to Greeley and Seward, see Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln: A History*, 9: 192; 10: 115.

Mr Ewing arrived to night, bringing his negro woman Ann with him

Wash-  
ington

Friday Nov 25, 1864 At the Departments in the morning, and then at work at my room. In the evening called at Mr McLeands and spent an hour

Saturday Nov

Saturday Nov 26 At work at my room all day. Singleton called this morning and repeated what he said on Thursday—adding that he had not yet seen the President, but had received a message from him saying that slavery should not stand in the way of adjustment, and that he intended to say so in his message—that he would determine after the meeting of Congress whether he would send commissioners to Richmond, and that if he concluded to do so he would send him, Singleton.

Sunday Nov 27 At Mr Chesters Church in school house this morning

\*Monday Nov 28 At Departments in the morning—then at work at my room

Tuesday Nov 29 At work at my room all day.

\*Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Nov 30, 1864 At Departments

\*Thursday Decr 1, 1864 At work at my room all day. In the evening called at Mr Stantons and Mr Swards—Met Genl Hancock and Baron Gerolt at Mr Swards

Friday Decr 2. At Departments in morning

\*Saturday Decr 3. At work at my room all day

Sunday Decr 4 Attended Church in the morning in company with Judge Grier & Mrs Beck. In the evening called on Judge Miller and his wife and daughter at the National

\*Monday Decr 5. No quorum in Supreme Court this morning though we all met there, and dispersed again. Then at work at my room.

Wash-  
ington

Tuesday December 6, 1864 At Departments in morning. Then at Supreme Court, but no quorum. Members of the bar held a meeting in the court room to take action in regard to death of Judge Taney. Mr Meredith of Baltimore presided. I was one of the Committe on resolutions

Wednesday Decr 7 Proceedings of members of the bar in reference to death of Judge Taney presented by Mr Ewing—responded to by Judge Wayne & court adjourned. Before this was done Hon James Speed<sup>1</sup> the new Atto: Gen was admitted and sworn in as a member of the bar

Thursday Dec 8 Attended Court in the morning, and then at work at my room

Friday Decr 9 At Departments in morning—Then attended court—then at work at my room

Wash-  
ington

Saturday Decr 10, 1864 Heavy snow last night. Doing errands this morning, buying coal &c Walked up to Riggs Bank, and got draft to pay for hardware in New York. \*At 5 P. M. went to Willards Hotel to dine with Judge Curtis. The company consisted of Judge Curtis, Judge Nelson of the Supreme Court, Judge Warren of Boston, Mr Bartlett, a distinguished barrister of Boston, Hon Reverdy Johnson & myself.<sup>2</sup> We went to the table at 5 P. M. and left at 9.

During dinner the conversation turned on Chief Justice Taney, and his removal of the deposits when Secy of the Treasury under Genl Jackson

Mr Johnson stated that he and Judge Taney were always politically opposed, but intimate personal friends, and that they had frequent conversations about the relations of the U S Bank to the government prior to Judge Taney going into the cabinet, and when he had neither wish nor expectation to go there, in all of which Judge Taney expressed to him his belief that the public funds were unsafe in the Bank, and should not be permitted to remain there—that he felt confident the Bank

Wash-  
ington

<sup>1</sup>James Speed of Kentucky, 1812-1887. Friend of Lincoln in early manhood; attorney general, 1864-1866; brother of Joshua F. Speed of Louisville, Kentucky, and Springfield, Illinois, who was perhaps Lincoln's closest early friend.

<sup>2</sup>Of the men with whom Browning dined on this occasion, Benjamin R. Curtis had been a member of the United States Supreme Court from 1851 to 1857, Samuel Nelson was at that time a member of the court, Winslow Warren and Sidney Bartlett were Boston lawyers, and Reverdy Johnson (see also 213 n. 1) was a prominent Union Democrat of Maryland who later became United States minister to England.



would prove insolvent—that he had no doubt of the power of the President to cause the deposits to be withdrawn—that he thought it his duty as the guardian of the public interests, to dissolve the connection between the Bank & Government, and that if he were President he would act promptly upon his convictions.

After this he was called to the cabinet as attorney General. Judge Curtis said that whilst he was upon the bench he had conversations with the Chief Justice upon the same subject, in which Judge Taney told him that when President Jackson became alarmed for the safety of the public funds in the Bank, and the question of their withdrawal was agitated in the Cabinet, he was called upon as Atto: Genl to give his official opinion of the constitutional power of the President to cause the removal to be made. He gave an opinion affirming the power,<sup>1</sup> and the President ordered the removal. Mr Duane was Secy of the Treasury. He did not believe the power existed, and rather than execute what he considered an illegal order, resigned his office. The President then came to him, Taney, and said you have given an opinion affirming my power to remove the deposits—I have ordered it to be done. Mr Duane has refused to do it, and resigned his position. I acted upon the authority of your opinion, and am deserted in attempting to carry it out.

You must stand by me. I wish you to give up the Atto: Generalship, go into the Treasury Department, and execute the order which I have made in conformity to your advice—that was taken by surprise—he did not wish to take the Treasury Department—that it was a great sacrifice for him to do so, and he remonstrated, but the President insisted, and he finally, from a conviction that it was his duty, but much against his inclinations, yielded.

<sup>1</sup>No such opinion by Taney is reported in the published *Opinions of the Attorneys General*, but Taney's disapproval of the bank even before he entered Jackson's cabinet, and his conviction that the public money should be removed from the bank's custody, are set forth by Taney's biographer, Steiner, who also calls attention to the intimacy between Taney and Reverdy Johnson. Steiner, *Life of Roger Brooke Taney*, 145-146.

Mr Johnson & Judge Curtis concurred in saying they entertained no doubt that, in all that related to that interesting transaction, Judge Taney acted from pure motives, and upon the strongest convictions of duty—that he was a man of unusually pure life, and always acted conscientiously in the performance of his duties.

Sunday Dec 11. Attended Church in the morning, and heard an excellent sermon from old Dr Chester

\*Monday Decr 12 At court in the morning—then at the Departments

Tuesday Decr 13 At court in morning—then at the Departments—then called on Mrs Col Symington and her daughter, Miss Edith, at Rev Mr McLains

\*Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Decr 14, 1864 At Departments, and then at work at home

Thursday Decr 15 Argument of the case of Stone vs U S<sup>1</sup> commenced in Supreme Court to day by Mr Stinson of Kansas, for Stone—Continued by Mr Coffee asst atto: Genl, for U. S.

Mr Chief Justice Chase sworn in, and took his seat this morning

Friday Decr 16. I concluded the argument of the case commenced on yesterday, for appellant. Hon Mr Ewing & Mr Carlisle were associated with me, but put the argument on me. Spoke three hours & was highly complimented

\*Saturday Decr 17 At Departments in morning Hill came to night

Sunday Decr 18 At Church in the morning

\*Wash-  
ington

Monday Dec 19, 1864 Attending court, and at work at my room

At night called at the Presidents, and saw him in regard to several matters

Tuesday Decr 20 At Treasury Department in the morning—then attending court.

<sup>1</sup>2 Wallace, 525 ff.

Wednesday Dec 21 In court in the morning—Then at work at my room. Was also at Departments

Thursday Dec 22 At Surgeon Genls and at War Department with Parish—Then in law Library at work Mrs Browning and Emma arrived at 8 p. m. in company with Theodore Letton

\*Friday Decr 23 At court and the law library in the morning Then at work at home

Wash-  
ington

Saturday Dec 24, 1864 At law library in the morning In the evening went to the Presidents and had an interview with him about letting Genl Singleton go to Richmond for the purpose of purchasing Cotton &c Submitted to him for consideration a written proposition. If it succeeds quite a number of gentlemen, including Senator Morgon of N. Y.—Mr Coxe now of Canada, Judge Hughes of the court of claims, and myself.

During the evening the President showed me all the correspondence between him & Greely in regard to the negotiations at Niagara in July last with Clay and Tucker, and assured me that he had been misrepresented, and misunderstood and that he had never entertained the purpose of making the abolition of slavery a condition precedent to the termination of the war, and the restoration of the Union

Wash-  
ington

Sunday Decr 25, 1864 A bright, pretty Christmast day. Went to Church with Mrs Senator Foot, and Capt Letton. Mr Chester preached.

Monday Decr 26 A dismal, drizzly day. At home all day

\*Tuesday Dec 27 At court, and then at the Treasury Department and the Bank of Jay Cook & Co, about the organization and deposit of bonds of our Bank at Quincy

President sent for me and I went there. He wished to talk to me about Singleton going through the lines to Richmond to buy cotton &c and about releasing Mrs Symingtons Son who is a prisoner at Fort Lafayette

Wash-  
ington

Wednesday Dec 28, 1864 At Court in the morning—Then at work in the law library

Thursday Dec 29 At Court and the Departments

Friday Dec 30. At Court and the Departments

Saturday Dec 31. At the Departments in the morning

In the evening Mrs Browning, Miss Emma & myself dined at Adml Wilkes in company with Judge Loring<sup>1</sup> of the Court of Claims, and his wife.

<sup>1</sup>Edward G. Loring, judge of the United States Court of Claims.





[illegible]

DEMCO 38-297

F536  
I25  
v.20

110517

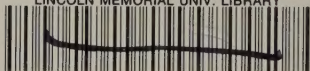
Ill. St. Hist. Library

Collections

LIBRARY  
LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY  
Harrogate, Tennessee 37752



LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIV. LIBRARY



3 5040 80799 6603